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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Caribbean States Agree to Crude Oil Refining in Antigua
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 12 Nov 82)..... 1

GRENADA

- Electricity Service To Disconnect Customers in Arrears
(FREE WEST INDIAN, 23 Oct 82)..... 3

- Briefs
Fuel Price Changes 4

JAMAICA

- Peat Reserves Show Greater Power Capacity Than Expected
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 11 Nov 82)..... 5

ST LUCIA

- Canadian Study Urges Development of Broad Energy Policy
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 13 Nov 82)..... 6

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- OECS Holds Summit; St Lucia, Antigua Offer Proposals
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 13 Nov 82)..... 8

Compton Address
8-Point Economic Plan

Chile, Argentina Hold Trade Meetings (EL MERCURIO, 5 Nov 82).....	11
DPA Summary of Regional Indebtedness (LA VANGUARDIA, 31 Oct 82).....	13
Briefs	
BCIE Acting President	19
Caribbean Countries Form UNESCO Sub-Group	19
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	
Union Conference Elects New Leader, Executive Body (THE WORKERS VOICE, various dates).....	20
Election of Bascus Bascus' Views, by R. A. Bascus Response to Bascus, by Phyllis Joshua	
BAHAMAS	
Hanna Reads Budget Report at House of Assembly (Nassau Domestic Service, 8 Dec 82).....	23
BARBADOS	
Government Reports 21.5 Percent Exports Increase (Irvine Reid; CANA, 8 Dec 82).....	24
BELIZE	
Government, Private Sector Review Imports (SUNDAY TIMES, 1 Nov 82).....	26
Political Parties of Region Give Support to Belize (SUNDAY TIMES, 7 Nov 82).....	28
Direct Talks With Guatemala Says Deputy Prime Minister (SUNDAY TIMES, 14 Nov 82).....	32
BRAZIL	
PDT Leaders To Force Contacts With PT Leaders, PMDB Left (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 20 Nov 82).....	33
Editorial Examines Role of United States in OAS (Editorial; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 19 Nov 82).....	35
ABI-Ackel Studies Montoro Proposal To Abolish Sao Paulo DOPS (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 24 Nov 82).....	37

Third Army Commander on Possibility of Civilian President (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 20, 23 Nov 82).....	39
'They Are All Brazilians' Denies Military Involvement	
CAYMAN ISLANDS	
Briefs	
TV Service	43
CHILE	
Vicar of Solidarity Praises Exile Return Measures (EL MERCURIO, 5 Nov 82).....	44
Government Announces Program To Reduce Unemployment (LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, 16 Nov 82).....	46
ODEPLAN Analyzes Debt, Capacity To Pay of Various Sectors (EL MERCURIO, 20 Nov 82).....	48
CONUPIA Chief Decries Low Demand, Bleak Prospects (Daniel Badilla; EL MERCURIO, 21 Nov 82).....	50
Daily Examines Violent Methods of Marxist Groups (Editorial; EL MERCURIO, 5 Nov 82).....	52
Foreign Relations Vice Minister Meets With Chinese Officials (EL MERCURIO, 5 Nov 82).....	54
CUBA	
Havana Praises Nicaraguan Achievements in 1982 (Havana International Service, 7 Dec 82).....	56
Veiga Reads CTC National Council Main Report (TRABAJADORES, 25 Oct 82).....	58
Commentary on Costa Rican Economy, Reagan Visit (Havana International Service, 8 Dec 82).....	84
Briefs	
Israel Accused of Ignoring Resolutions	86
CEMA Agriculture Commission Holds Meeting	86
Forestry Cooperation Agreement	86
Peace Movement Sends Message	86
U.S. Anti-Cuban Project	87
Castro Message to Researchers	87
Construction Workers Message	87

Fidel Castro Given Award	88
Lezcano Meets With Deputies	88
Cuba's Rodriguez Decorated	88

GRENADA

Conference of Worldwide Intellectuals Slated for Carriacou (FREE WEST INDIAN, 30 Oct 82).....	89
Full Schedule of Rallies, Events Planned for November (FREE WEST INDIAN, 30 Oct 82).....	91
Union Threatens Action Against Water Commission (FREE WEST INDIAN, 27 Oct 82).....	94
Port Dues on Yachts Halted; Marine Radio Installed (FREE WEST INDIAN, 23 Oct 82).....	96
Briefs Union Expansion	97

GUATEMALA

Increasing Opposition to Regime Noted (Havana International Service, 29 Nov 82).....	98
---	----

JAMAICA

Seaga Breaks Ground for Media Center, Hails Potential (THE DAILY GLEANER, 12 Nov 82).....	100
Minister Broderick Gets Backing of Agricultural Society (THE DAILY GLEANER, 12, 11 Nov 82).....	102
Vote of Confidence Broderick Address	
Shipping Association Head Urges Labor Reforms at Port (THE DAILY GLEANER, 15 Nov 82).....	104
Assessments of Seaga's Status Report Not All Laudatory (THE DAILY GLEANER, 11 Nov 82, THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 14 Nov 82).....	106
Hearne Comment, by John Hearne 'Sad Experience', by W. Val Chambers Economic Situation Review	
Sugar Industry Chief, Boards Named in Restructuring Move (THE DAILY GLEANER, 13 Nov 82).....	111

Special Police Assailed; Appeal Fails To Stop Sick-Out (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates).....	112
'GLEANER' Condemnation, Editorial Commissioner's Statement Official Retaliation	
JLP Wins By-Elections, Seaga's Praise; Vote Assessed (THE DAILY GLEANER, 13, 15 Nov 82).....	114
Poll Results Seaga Congratulations Carl Stone Analysis, by Carl Stone	
Seaga Wants MP's To Devote More Time to Constituencies (THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 14 Nov 82).....	117
Seaga Discloses Future Plans for Trade Department (THE DAILY GLEANER, 15 Nov 82).....	118
Briefs	
Grant for Training	119
Export Orders	119
Jamaican, U.S. Counterfeit	120
ST KITTS-NEVIS	
Briefs	
Charge of Biased Reporting	121
ST LUCIA	
Briefs	
CDB Aid Package	122

CARIBBEAN STATES AGREE TO CRUDE OIL REFINING IN ANTIGUA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Nov 82 p 27

[Text] Antigua, Nov 11 (CANA--REUTER)

Six of seven Leeward Islands Government have signed a memorandum of understanding agreeing to seek crude oil for processing on their behalf by the West Indies Oil Company here, the Antigua and Barbuda Government has reported.

The six territories are Antigua, Dominica, St Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, St Vincent and Saint Lucia.

Grenada, which was also represented at talks here on the Memorandum, is expected to sign later, the Antigua Government said.

Six of the seven Governments have already signed the "memorandum of understanding" the statement said. "Of the Governments represented, only Grenada has not yet signed."

"But it is expected that the Grenada Government will shortly do so since the idea of a joint refining facility to supply oil related requirements for the LDC's (Less Developed Countries) was originally introduced by Grenada."

The Antigua and Barbuda Government said that Trinidad and Tobago had told the group it was unable to meet the crude oil requirements of the Eastern Caribbean States on the same concessional terms as Mexico and Venezuela.

Under a 1980 accord, Mexico and Venezuela agreed to provide Jamaica, Barbados and a group of Central American States with crude on concessional terms, with a third of the cost returned to the purchasers as a soft loan.

According to the statement, the Caribbean countries are seeking to have their crude oil refined by the West Indies Oil Company, which was revived in April at a cost of US\$30-million and has a capacity of 20,000 barrels per day.

The plant is a joint venture between the Antigua Government and the National Petroleum Company of Bermuda. It was closed temporarily because of difficulties in securing crude at prices that would make refining profitable.

Meanwhile in England the British Government today launched its most ambitious scheme to date for opening national enterprises to private investors, through the sale of shares in Britoil, the state owned North Sea oil company.

The sale by tender of 255 million shares, 51 percent of Britoil, was announced by Energy Secretary Nigel Lawson. [as published]

"It will create an independent British Oil Company free to seize the opportunities open to it and substantially reduce the size of the public sector in an area where state ownership has no rational justification", he told Parliament.

Underwriters in the City, London's financial district, set the minimum price at 2.15 sterling (3.57 dollars) per share, for a potential total of 548 sterling (910 million dollars).

But Mr Lawson said the sale would raise at least 600 million sterling (995 million dollars) for the Government.

The sale of Britoil is the biggest effort yet by Britain's right-wing conservative Government to reverse years of state control in British industry and raise much-needed cash for the treasury.

CSO: 3298/129

ELECTRICITY SERVICE TO DISCONNECT CUSTOMERS IN ARREARS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 23 Oct 82 p 9

[Full-page, boxed notice from Grenada Electricity Services Ltd]

[Text] Notice to All Consumers

We are making an appeal to all consumers of electricity who are overdue to pay their bills promptly. This is the only way the Company can continue to operate and supply you with electricity.

If consumers do not pay their bills we cannot purchase the necessary fuel, pay the workers, and buy spares to keep the service going. This is virtually our only source of revenue. At the moment we know that there are thousands of consumers who are over one month in arrears. This, in fact, means that consumers who are paying their bills promptly are subsidising the service for those who are not. This clearly cannot continue.

Consumers in arrears are being given seven days in which to bring their accounts up to date. From Friday October 29, 1982, disconnection crews will be operating all over the island on a drastic disconnection drive.

We cannot because of the volume of disconnection envisaged guarantee reconnection within 48 hours. We, therefore, advise you to try and avoid the inconvenience of having your power supply interrupted.

Our offices are open to consumers who wish to have an up-to-date statement of account between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Thursday 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. on Friday.

W. M. Bullen
Manager

CSO: 3298/130

BRIEFS

FUEL PRICE CHANGES--Increases in the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene were announced this week by the Energy Unit in the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Planning, following an increase in stamp duty from 12.5 to 17.5 per cent. Gasoline has increased from \$6.06 for an imperial gallon to \$6.28; diesel from \$5.45 a gallon to \$5.61; and Kerosene from \$4.93 to \$5.10. Prices have been reduced in Carriacou and Petit Martinique, however; gasoline now sell for \$6.46 a gallon, instead of \$6.50. [as published] Diesel went down from \$5.95 to \$5.75, and kerosene from \$5.45 to \$5.24. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 23 Oct 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/130

PEAT RESERVES SHOW GREATER POWER CAPACITY THAN EXPECTED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

A NEW ASSESSMENT of Jamaica's peat reserves has indicated that the potential for generating electricity has been increased from 60 megawatts maximum output to 120 megawatts.

According to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, it has also been estimated that there are peat reserves to last for 30 years that would represent substantial foreign exchange savings in the cost of fuel. However, a detailed economic analysis has to be done in order to determine the most profitable use of the peat, and feasibility studies are now being conducted by the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

Mr. Seaga made these disclosures to members of the National Peat Committee, which held its inaugural meeting at Jamaica House yesterday.

The Committee is co-ordinating the study regarding the potential for using indigenous peat reserves from the Black River Morass in St. Elizabeth and the Negril area of Hanover/Westmoreland for fuel. It will advise the Prime Minister on all aspects of the utilisation of those reserves and other wetland resources so that the best options can be selected by the Government.

The Prime Minister drew attention to the importance of planning for ecological changes which could result from the excavation of the peat in a large area to a depth of from 18 to 20 feet. This would include use of the mined-out areas for productive purposes such as for producing fish or shrimps.

He urged the Committee to expedite completion of the studies on peat which forms part of Jamaica's National Energy Plan.

Mr. Seaga was informed that preliminary findings regarding repairing possible damage which could occur as a result of peat mining, use of the mined-

out swamps and how to protect the area are to be presented by March next year.

The interim report dealing with the engineering and technical feasibility of peat mining including economic costs and benefits is expected to be ready by September 1983 along with recommendations for alternative uses if energy utilization is rejected. The final report is scheduled for December 1983.

A news release from the Office of the Prime Minister said, however, that it was not expected that peat resources would play a significant role as a source of fuel, if feasibility is proven, until at least 1985.

Members of the Committee are Dr. Dhiru Tanna, Chairman; Mr. John Williams, of the Jamaica National Investment Corporation (JNIC); Dr. Barry Wade, of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, Secretary; Dr. Henry Lowe, of the Ministry of Mining and Energy; Mrs. Gloria Knight, of the Urban Development Corporation; Mr. Lloyd Logan, of BRUMDEC; Mr. Roy Anderson, of ALCAN; and Mrs. Beverley Miller, of the Resources Conservation Department (NRCD).

CANADIAN STUDY URGES DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD ENERGY POLICY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 16

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, Nov. 12 (CANA): The Saint Lucia government has been advised to seek to develop a comprehensive energy policy aimed at reducing the island's reliance on imported supplies and minimising the cost to consumers without compromising ready availability.

This was one of the recommendations to come out of a conference held here in September on the island's energy future.

Billed as the "Search Conference", it was organised at government's invitation by the York University of Toronto, Faculty of Environmental Studies, and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The University team of facilitators for the conference has submitted an interim report to CIDA and the Saint Lucia Government and will prepare a final report following a visit this month to evaluate post-conference activity.

Another report has been presented by the 30 participants at the four-day conference, who have said that it was intended for Saint Lucians "with the hope that they will be provoked to point to significant action on energy issues."

The participants included teachers, engineers, businessmen, economic and energy planners, agriculturists and officials of the Guyana-based Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat, the island's technology and energy unit and the only solar heating establishment here.

Since the conference, participants have formed a standing committee to spearhead follow-up activity. Their report is based on the recommendations of four task groups formed during the conference to examine various energy issues.

One of the major recommendations, directed at the government, calls for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary energy council, whose role would be to advise Cabinet on energy policy and to review adopted policies when necessary.

It is suggested that this council be given powers of inspection on a national basis through an amendment to existing planning legislation.

The participants have also suggested that an energy unit be established under the direction of the Minister of Finance. This unit, they said, would identify areas of maximum energy savings through curbing wastage and encouraging more efficient use of energy supplies nationwide.

It would also be expected to develop policy directions for the council's consideration and execute policy recommendations, undertake implementation of projects in energy generation and demonstration of new ideas and technologies which follow.

The unit would have a permanent staff working with regional and international bodies in order to attract resources which would enhance St. Lucia's capacity in the field.

Said the report: "The unit will operate as a resource to assist in the project development and implementation for all sectors in the state and will act as an intermediary dealing with existing institutional arrangements rather than seek to direct matters through formal legislative action.

The report recommended that the island's "trade restrictive list" be amended to include items which have implications for energy production and consumption. Such items would be identified by the energy unit and the Ministry of Trade could then be technically guided by the unit to control the importation of unnecessary high-energy consuming items.

It also proposed that government explore the possibility of using the Hess trans-shipment terminal here, which was opened earlier this year, for the storage of petroleum-based energy for local consumption as a short-term measure to ensure regular supplies for the island's development needs.

The Hess facility, owned by the American Amerada Hess Corporation, has a storage capacity of more than five million barrels of crude oil, 25,000 barrels of gasoline and 20,000 barrels of diesel.

CSO: 3298/132

OECS HOLDS SUMMIT; ST LUCIA, ANTIGUA OFFER PROPOSALS

Compton Address

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 2

[Text]

CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA, NOV. 11, (CAN) Member governments of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) were today urged to close ranks behind the organisation to find solutions to regional problems.

The advice came from Saint Lucia's Prime Minister, John Compton, at the opening of the two-day mini summit.

Dominica is the only country not attending the meeting. OECS Secretariat officials said that while Dominica had cabled its inability to attend, no reasons were given.

Apart from Saint Lucia, two other countries Grenada and St. Kitts-Nevis, are represented at the level of heads of government.

Welcoming the delegations from the seven member territories, Mr. Compton noted that the OECS was formed to be the principal organ of co-operation among member states to meet the chal-

lenges of the outside world and to devise harmonised and carefully orchestrated responses to these challenges.

He added: "To achieve its purpose requires a well-oiled and functioning machinery with our watches manned and our lamps trimmed and burning."

Mr. Compton said it was of little purpose to create an organisation and formalise it by solemn treaty unless the participating states were prepared to accept their obligations under the treaty and use the machinery which they themselves had created for discussing and finding solutions to common problems.

He declared "None of us should consider that we have commitments to and associations with third parties which take precedence over our obligations under the treaty which are to foster closer cooperation among our governments

and the people whom we claim to serve. None of us should take any action or pursue any policy which runs counter to our obligations to each other or which will tend to introduce into the region international conflicts, which most of us strive to avoid."

Mr. Compton said that the problems of poverty and under-development could only be compounded "by divisions among ourselves" adding: "If we seek to erect ideological barriers between ourselves and to separate ourselves into ideological camps we bring solutions to our problems no closer, but rather compound and aggravate them."

He said that as the international waters grew turbulent, OECS states should seek to shelter behind the organisation and demonstrate to the world their ability to provide solutions to their problems.

8-Point Economic Plan

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 15

[Text]

SAINT LUCIA, Nov. 11 (CAN)- Antigua's

Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird, today, pre-

sented his political colleagues in the

Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) with an eight-point strategy for strengthening the economies of member countries.

Addressing the opening of a two-day OECS heads of government meeting here, Mr. Bird, spoke of the economic difficulties facing the world and warned that in the case of the Caribbean, the social pressures created by this economic dislocation would end "in violent explosion" for all regional countries.

He said: "By the end of this year, unemployment throughout the Caribbean will be higher than it has been for the last five years, the rate of growth will show a decline, and the cost of living will rise.

"We may not now experience the desolate poverty of some parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, our people may not fall victim to unattended disease, but nonetheless, there will be a back-sliding in the standard of living to which we are accustomed."

Mr. Bird warned that if the Caribbean was to avoid large-scale unemployment and social discord in the near future, "we must take immediate steps to deepen and strengthen the process of integration."

He noted that while there has been talk in the region about a common market, the CARICOM countries were yet to advance the free trade area to the "community" which was the regional objective.

Identifying the eight goals for regional economic advancement, Mr. Bird called for first, the creation of a common customs union, and he exhorted the OECS to begin the move by establishing such a union among themselves and leaving the door open for future participation by the more de-

veloped countries of the region.

Under the union, he said, the customs collections in each state would continue to be retained by the Nation Treasury, but the participating countries would benefit from reduced costs and increased revenues because they would have established a common external tariff, common procedures, and common documentation.

"In other words, without sacrificing benefits, we would greatly advance the regional integration movement among ourselves and leave the door open for participation by our neighbours", he said.

Spelling out the seven other goals, which he said the OECS could pursue for the benefit of all its peoples, Mr. Bird called for the upgrading of the East Caribbean currency authority to central bank status and the introduction of a mechanism to curtail the flight of capital from the islands.

He suggested a joint approach to matters on the Law of the Sea be established, the intensification of the allocation of industries scheme, and binding mechanisms to ensure protection for industries allocated under the scheme.

Mr. Bird also suggested that there be integration of similar productive activity among member states and joint production to maximise resources, improvement in export marketing and tourism promotion to increase foreign exchange earnings, definition of a clear role for the private sector in economic development and the establishment of clear guidelines for foreign investment in the OECS economies, and finally, a commitment to adopt common policies and take joint action in the international community, particularly with regard to trade and economic matters.

Mr. Bird expressed the view that apart from the

central bank issue, the seven areas should also concern the wider CARICOM region, adding "for while we, in the OECS, have a greater potential for realising those goals, the future of the region rests in a deepening and strengthening of the integration process in CARICOM as a whole."

He noted that the MDC's in CARICOM had already introduced mechanisms for controlling the flight of capital, but this was not the case in OECS states.

The Antigua Deputy Leader declared: "Let us ask ourselves how many Caribbean people earn their money in the Caribbean and then move it to other countries chasing after higher interest rates. Let us ask ourselves how many banks and insurance companies make surpluses on savings and premiums of Caribbean citizens which they then ship abroad. Let us ask ourselves if it is fair that poor Caribbean countries should finance a higher standard of living for people who already have a living standard much higher than our own."

Mr. Bird said that to accept this condition was to accept a state of affairs "which violates our conscience and assaults our decency."

The bulk of the capital earned in the region should remain in the region to provide a better quality of life for the masses of the people. He added that he was not proposing that extreme measures should be taken and that people should not be allowed to travel on holiday or import for their businesses.

"But, I am suggesting that measures in place for repatriation of profits and capital on investment are already generous enough, and there is no need for companies and individuals

to jeopardise our economies by illegal and immoral movement of capital from our states."

Mr. Bird touched on the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), saying that Antigua continued to welcome the initiative despite the fact that "the protectionist lobbies" in Washington had sought to diminish the trade and investments aspects which were earlier envisaged.

Antigua, he said, did not welcome the CBI on the basis that it offered exclusive solutions to the

problems of Caribbean Economic development, because it did not.

"Our attitude to the CBI is that Caribbean governments must approach it with a common head, one which is practical enough to recognise and accept the benefits of the CBI while being critical enough not to accept any measures which assail our national dignity and threaten our Caribbean solidarity."

Noting that the OECS talks were taking place "on the eve of a long-awaited

CARICOM Heads of Government conference," Mr. Bird called on delegates to recognise the pivotal importance which the coming summit could play in the future or fate of the Caribbean.

He suggested that it would be helpful to the Jamaica Summit and to the destiny of Caribbean peoples, if next week's talks proved "to be the ground on which the OECS leaders laid the foundation for a renewed CARICOM solidarity in the future."

CSO: 3298/133

CHILE, ARGENTINA HOLD TRADE MEETINGS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Nov 82 p C 11

[Text] Cohqique--An invitation to participate in a mixed meeting aimed at initiating trade relations with individuals in Chubut, in Argentine Patagonia, has been received by the directors of the 11th Region Production Coordinating Committee, following a visit by them to Comodoro Rivadavia.

There they made contact with local representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production, setting the date for the first meeting during the second half of November in the town of Esquel, which is located on the other side of the Andes opposite the Chilean province of Palena.

Andres Zuniga, president of the local merchants, said that this exchange "has been sought because of the current economic situation, in which it is very difficult for the regional businessman to compete with markets that are very far away from our center and very costly, and with a view to the possibility of finding another area which can provide us with some of the things our region needs."

Chubut has shown much interest in obtaining lenga wood, which traditionally has been sold in that area of Argentina, as well as ocean products, particularly fish; horticultural products; and items of skilled craftsmanship, a category that has received much incentive recently and sales of which have been very good in our country. For this reason it is believed that it will be possible to place these in Argentina. It is also hoped to exchange some national products such as pisco, pepper, preserves and other categories which, because of the number of Chileans living in Chubut, may have a market. Aisen needs articles of primary necessity, such as flour, yerba, cooking oil, soap, clothing and cement.

Valdivia and Neuquen

Valdivia--Communications have been received by the Valdivia Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Temuco and Cauquenes concerning businesses interested in participating in the integration plans being consolidated by Valdivia Province in Chile, and Neuquen Province, in the Argentine Republic.

This was learned from industrialists in both cities who requested the local agency to include, in the listing of products to be offered for sale in the neighboring country, their specialty of enameled wood stoves, in which there is great interest among homes there.

At the same time, letters have been received from San Martin de Los Andes, in Neuquen Province, from businessmen who wish to purchase domestically canned vegetables and shellfish and are offering for sale, in turn, canned lard and other Argentine meat products, which are in demand in households in this country. Because this exchange of letters between the two nations is still in the stage of discussion of offerings, the list of products ready to be offered for sale on both sides of the Andes has not yet been published.

Therefore a mutual extension has been granted to complete the reports which will be presented for the consideration of the Chambers of Commerce of San Martin de Los Andes and of Valdivia, which will be the clearing centers for information in the respective countries.

Gerardo Martin, manager of the Valdivia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will go to San Martin within a few days to meet with representatives of the Neuquen chamber to iron out some details relating to the trade exchange.

According to rumors, it is possible that he will take to that meeting the list of Chilean products which are to be offered for sale in the neighboring country across Hua-Hum Pass.

8735

CSO: 3348/94

DPA SUMMARY OF REGIONAL INDEBTEDNESS

Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 31 Oct 82 p 37

[Text] Hamburg--Every worker in Latin America would have to contribute \$2,525 of his wages to pay off the foreign debt, which in the 19 countries of the region has reached a total of \$285.11 billion.

This situation, calculated on the basis of a labor force of 112.9 million people, is even more critical considering that the average gross domestic product per capita in these countries is only \$1,279.94 per year.

According to a new DPA economic survey of Latin America, the overall debt breaks down to \$813.42 for each inhabitant of the 19 countries (343 million in all).

Some experts term this situation a "time bomb" that could explode at any time. It seriously compromises the international financial community, because these countries' reserves cover only 12 percent of the foreign debt.

Just three Latin American countries--Argentina, Brazil and Mexico--account for \$200 billion of this debt. Nine countries are in the process of renegotiating their commitments. The most critical case is that of Mexico, which has already put private U.S. banks in a tight squeeze this year. In 1983 Mexico will have to devote almost its entire oil income to pay just the interest on its debt.

Argentina will have to renegotiate part of its obligations (between \$12 billion and \$15 billion) on a short-term basis, and Brazil, where some economists think renegotiation is "inevitable," will have to obtain \$3.6 billion by December of this year to be able to even up its balance of payments.

The financial drama is even more acute considering that the foreign debt of Latin American countries represents 52.8 percent of the overall debt of developing countries, estimated at some \$540 billion.

The foreign debt situation and its consequences in the 19 countries surveyed in this DPA study are as follows:

Argentina. Debt: \$39.139 billion (public sector 58 percent, private sector 42 percent). Per capita debt: \$1,402. Debt per worker: \$4,001. Reserves: \$3.5 billion. Origin of debt: excessive public investment and indiscriminate opening of internal market to imports, which drained foreign reserves. Consequence: postponement or delay of several national projects, including the binational Yacyreta Dam undertaken with Paraguay, several nuclear and energy projects, and railroad modernization. Creditors: IMF, World Bank, IADB and U.S., European and Japanese banks.

Argentina is trying to "restructure" its debt. This year it will have to pay \$12 billion (\$15 billion, according to bank sources) in interest and amortization.

Bolivia. Debt: \$3.8 billion (public: \$2.542 billion in December 1981). Per capita debt: \$698. Debt per worker: \$2,109. Reserves: \$83 million (December 1981). Origin of debt: unprofitable national projects. Error in projection of exports (oil) and lack of control procedures. Creditors: consortium made up of 128 banks headed by the Bank of America and the Germanic Bank for South America. It is very likely that the new Bolivian government, which took office last Sunday, will take steps to renegotiate the foreign debt.

Brazil. Debt: \$81 billion, including \$9 million in short-term commitments (public sector 67 percent, private sector 33 percent). Per capita debt: \$675. Debt per worker: \$1,875. Debt services: \$18 billion in 1982. Reserves: \$7 billion. Origin of debt: the 1973 oil crisis and the economic policy pursued in Brazil since the crisis, and the rise in international interest rates.

The problem in Brazil since the oil crisis has been marked by low domestic interest rates while international rates and the cost of imports have been on the rise. This led businessmen to obtain prior domestic credit for imports (especially machinery). Under these circumstances, the private sector continued to buy the same quantities of goods, but at much higher prices and with cheaper domestic credit. This resulted in a deficit in the balance of trade. Between 1974 and 1980 that deficit averaged \$2.439 billion per year (only in 1977 was there a slight surplus of \$97 million).

Another source of the Brazilian foreign debt was the import substitution policy, especially concerning manufactured goods, implemented since 1975. The government participated directly in national projects in sectors such as iron and steel, copper, nuclear and hydroelectric energy, thereby drastically increasing the public debt. As a consequence of the current indebtedness, several of these projects have suffered delays to a greater or lesser extent, among them being the Itaipu (binational with Paraguay) and Tucuruí (state of Parana) hydroelectric projects.

Creditors: U.S., Canadian, West German and Swiss banks and institutions. Renegotiation: some believe that the renegotiation of Brazil's foreign debt is "inevitable" by mid-1983, if exports do not rise in value and international interest rates go up. This prognosis has been rejected by the government (this year Brazil needs to obtain \$3.6 billion to equilibrate its balance of

payments, according to a recent statement by Brazilian Planning Minister Antonio Delfin Netto in London).

Colombia. Debt: \$6,254,300,000 as of 31 December 1981 (public \$5,292,100,000, and private \$962,200,000). Per capita debt: \$236. Debt per worker: \$738. Debt services: up from \$398 million in 1978 to \$720 million in 1981. Reserves: \$5.195 billion as of 31 May 1982, according to the Germanic Bank for South America.

Costa Rica. Debt: \$4 billion (private \$1 billion). Per capita debt: \$1,739. Debt per worker: \$4,878. Debt services: \$100 million per year. Reserves: \$200 million. Origin of debt: accumulation of debts over the last 4 years and the inability to pay the debt and interest in the past 2 years. Consequences: paralyzation of public works (investment will be only in agricultural-industrial production projects).

Creditors: private U.S., British, Swiss, Singaporean and European banks, World Bank, IADB, Central American Integration Bank and Eximbank. Renegotiation in progress.

Cuba. Debt: \$3.5 billion to Western countries (medium- and long-term credit). Debt to USSR is not known. Per capita debt: \$360. Debt per worker: \$1,093 (estimated). Origin of debt: credit obtained to finance investments, especially in the sugar sector, and food and pharmaceutical imports. Consequences: drastic reduction in imports. Creditors: banks and institutions in 27 countries, including Canada, France, Spain (\$360 million), Japan and West Germany. Renegotiation: \$1.2 billion is being renegotiated now (medium- and long-term loans) to be paid over 10 years, with a 3-year grace period, beginning in 1986, without changing the terms and obligations of the short-term loans, whose amount is unknown.

Chile. Debt: \$15.5 billion as of 30 June 1982 (according to a recent report by the Industrial Development Association, SOFOFA). Nevertheless, the U.S. newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL calculated Chile's debt at \$18.2 billion, of which \$12 billion is with private banks. On the other hand, the Chilean opposition magazine HOY (No. 268 of 8 September 1982), estimated that debt at \$17 billion.

In 1970, at the end of the government of Eduardo Frei, the Chilean debt amounted to \$2.767 billion. Per capita debt at present: \$1,383. Debt per worker: \$4,466. Debt services: \$3,050,500,000 in 1982 (between 1983 and 1991 Chile will have to pay out \$15.87 billion just in amortization and interest, according to official reports and based on the country's debt as of 31 December 1981, \$14,653,100,000). Current reserves: \$2.812 billion.

Origin of debt: growth of public indebtedness (moderate, according to analysts), and considerable increase in private indebtedness, the latter for two reasons: a) reduction of import tariffs to 10 percent (except for automobiles), leading to a tremendous increase in Chilean purchases abroad and a drain on foreign reserves; and b) competition from imported goods, which forced local industry to invest in technological renovation.

Consequences: the country's general economic situation has deteriorated because of the high foreign debt, high interest rates for domestic credit, the failure to protect local industry and agriculture, and low customs tariffs. This has led to low production, unemployment, the failure of industries, business bankruptcies and the liquidation of financial entities (500 failures in the first 9 months of 1982). The Chilean problem basically lies in the private sector, which accounts for 64.8 percent of the foreign debt.

Ecuador. Debt: \$6.6 billion (public \$5.2 billion, private \$1.4 billion). Per capita debt: \$767. Debt per worker: \$2,640. Debt services: \$800 million in 1982. Reserves: \$320 million. Origin: investments in large public works projects and expenditures for national defense. Consequences: postponement of projects such as the new Quito and Guayaquil airports, and a petrochemical plant. Renegotiation: in progress between the government and foreign private commercial banks.

El Salvador. Debt: \$649 million. Per capita debt: \$141. Debt per worker: \$441. Debt services: \$48 million in 1982. Reserves: \$122 million. Origin of debt: decline in revenues from exports, forcing the country to resort to external financing. Renegotiation in progress.

Guatemala. Debt: \$1.1 billion. Per capita debt: \$146. Debt per worker: \$440. Debt services: \$56.6 million in 1981. Reserves: \$495 million. Origin of debt: public works projects and projects for the public good, such as potable water.

Honduras. Debt: \$1.449 billion. Per capita debt: \$371. Debt per worker: \$1,239. Debt services: \$37.5 million in 1982 and \$44.9 million in 1983. Reserves: \$120 million in August 1982 (source: Germanic Bank for South America). Origin: public investments such as the El Cajon hydroelectric project (estimated cost \$600 million), increases in prices for energy and raw materials. Renegotiation in progress.

Mexico. Debt: \$80 billion (public \$66 billion, private \$14 billion). The debt represents 96 percent of the gross domestic product, which is estimated at \$83 billion. Per capita debt: \$1,186. Debt per worker: \$4,255. Debt services: \$2.8 billion as of December 1982; in 1983, \$12 billion (interest will take up almost all income from oil exports in 1983, estimated at \$15 billion). Reserves: \$3.9 billion (according to the Germanic Bank for South America).

Origin: investments, especially in the petroleum sector, payment of earlier debts. Financing of employment (4 million jobs over the last 6 years) and external causes. Consequence: the payment of the foreign debt, added to other factors, in the first 6 months of 1982 led to the greatest financial crisis in Mexico in the past 50 years, bringing the nation to the brink of default.

Creditors: Some 1,000 international banks and credit institutions, most of them U.S., Western European and Japanese. Renegotiation: payment of debt to

creditors is being arranged for next year. Last September Mexico obtained a 14-month extension for the amortization of its loans.

Nicaragua. Debt: \$4.2 billion. Per capita debt: \$1,555. Debt per worker: \$6,000. Reserves: \$76 million (source: Germanic Bank for South America). In recent months Nicaragua has suffered severe damages in agriculture as a result of floods and droughts, which have affected 60 percent of its export capacity, estimated at \$500 million this year. The government is studying the possibility of renegotiating the debt.

Panama. Debt: \$2.3 billion (corresponding to the public sector, according to the Germanic Bank). Other Panamanian sources indicate an overall debt of \$6.243 billion, of which \$3.587 billion corresponds to the public sector and \$2.656 billion to the private sector. Per capita debt: \$1,150. Debt per worker: \$2,804.

Paraguay. Debt: \$948.6 million (public \$798.1 million, private \$150.5 million). This figure does not include loans that have been contracted but not used. Debt per worker: \$862. Reserves: \$781.3 million (December 1981).

Peru. Debt: \$10.966 billion (\$9.146 billion in long-term credit and \$1.82 billion in short-term transactions). Per capita debt: \$619. Debt per worker: \$1,871. Debt services: 47.7 percent of export earnings and 34 percent of national budget are earmarked for the payment of the debt. Reserves: \$2.11 billion in July 1982 (source: Germanic Bank for South America).

Dominican Republic. Debt: \$1.887 billion. Per capita debt: \$349. Debt per worker: \$1,100. Reserves: \$267 million.

Uruguay. Debt: \$3,258,100,000 (\$1,901,400,000 public and \$1,356,700,000 private). Per capita debt: \$1,123. Debt per worker: \$2,961. Debt services: in 1981 it paid \$279.1 million. Reserves: \$708 million in July 1982 (source: Germanic Bank for South America).

Venezuela. Debt: \$18.52 billion. Per capita debt: \$1,268. Debt per worker: \$4,061. Debt services: \$4.186 billion per year. Reserves: \$6.6 billion. Main creditors: U.S., Japanese, West German and French banks and financial institutions. Renegotiation: in progress with Western Europe for an extension of \$3 billion in short-term commitments.

Ratio of Population to Foreign Debt
in 19 Latin American Countries

Country	Population	Foreign Debt	Per Capita Debt	Per Capita GDP (*)	Reserves
Argentina	27.9	39.139	1.402	1.782	3.500
Bolivia	5.5	3.840	698	540	83 (*)
Brazil	120.0	81.000	675	1.583	7.000
Colombia	26.5	6.254	236	727	5.195 (*)
Costa Rica	2.3	4.000	1.739	1.527	200

Country	Population	Foreign Debt	Per Capita Debt	Per Capita GDP (*)	Reserves
Cuba	9.7 (*)	3.500	360	834	no data
Chile	11.2	15.500 (**)	1.383	1.636	2.812
Ecuador	8.6	6.600	767	766	320
El Salvador	4.6	649	141	609	122
Guatemala	7.5	1.100	146	1.178	495
Honduras	3.9	1.449	371	639	120 (*)
Mexico	67.4	80.000	1.186	1.535	3.900 (*)
Nicaragua	2.7	4.200	1.555	897	76 (*)
Panama	2.0	2.300	1.150	1.816	no data
Paraguay	3.3	948	287	1.214	781
Peru	17.7	10.966	619	1.191	2.110 (*)
Dominican Rep.	5.4	1.887	349	1.092	267
Uruguay	2.9	3.258	1.123	2.162	708
Venezuela	14.6	18.520	1.268	2.391	6.600 (*)
19 countries	343.7	285.110	813.42	1.279.94	34.289

Foreign debt in billions of dollars. Per capita debt in dollars. Per capita GDP in dollars. International reserves in billions of dollars.

(*) Source: Germanic Bank for South America (Deutsch-Sudamerikanische Bank).

(**) Figure provided by the Chilean Industrial Development Association (SOFOFA).

Other sources calculate this debt at \$18.2 billion.

8926

CSO: 3248/170

BRIEFS

BCIE ACTING PRESIDENT--San Salvador, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Today Guatemalan Gilberto Secaira Estrada was elected vice president of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) and will serve as the institution's acting president. It has been unofficially learned that Secaira was appointed acting president rather than president due to differences among the various directors of this regional organization. Secaira's term as acting president begins this month. [PA062220 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0012 GMT 2 Dec 82 PA]

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES FORM UNESCO SUB-GROUP--Roseau, Dominica, 8 Dec, CANA--Grenada has been appointed president of a bureau of officials for the Caribbean that will act as a point of contact with the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO) and other agencies, it was officially announced. A government statement here quoting education minister, Charles Maynard, just back from the extraordinary meeting of UNESCO held in Paris recently, said that Dominica has been appointed vice president and Jamaica, secretary of the bureau. Mr Maynard said the most important function of the bureau "would be to give the Caribbean a continuing presence at UNESCO." He said that the bureau would act for the islands during the interval when there was no ministerial meeting and decision and to be taken. According to the statement, during the Paris meeting called to discuss the draft medium-term plan of UNESCO, the Caribbean formed a sub-group of UNESCO. Mr Maynard said that the Caribbean was previously grouped with Latin. Mr Maynard felt that this sub-grouping will give the Caribbean better representation at UNESCO, adding that the islands in the region had now earned for themselves a new respect in UNESCO. [Text] [FLO81910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1804 GMT 8 Dec 82]

CSO: 3298/1164

UNION CONFERENCE ELECTS NEW LEADER, EXECUTIVE BODY

Election of Bascus

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 29 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

The 43rd Annual delegates conference of the Antigua-Barbuda Trades & Labour Union ended on Monday evening with the surprised election of a new General Secretary in the person of Mr. Robin Bascus and a new Executive to chart the work of the Union for another year.

The election of Bascus was a surprise because he was not on the nomination

paper. Leslie John who was standing for election declined at the late hour and so Mr. Robin Bascus accepted nomination and was elected. Bascus is no stranger in Labour circles and his election is welcomed.

The conference was addressed by the President Senator William Robinson who declared the session open. Also addressing the conference were Comrades V.C. Bird,

Prime Minister who gave the feature address and ILO Adviser, Mr. George De Peana. Mr. De Peana is the International Labour Organization Adviser on Education for the Caribbean.

Only two new changes were made in the previous Executive they are Edward Dowdy and Cyril Bridgewater.

Following is the new Executive:-

William Robinson	President
Donald Shepard	1st Vice President
B.T. Carrott	2nd Vice President
Denfield Hurst	3rd Vice President
Robin Bascus	Gen. Secretary
Natalie Payne	Trustees
Ethlyn Wynter	
Naomi Weste	
Jeremiah Aska	Treasurer

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

James Goodwin

Ethlyn Wynter
Mildred Bailey
Christian T. Simon
Joshua Samuel
Albert Edwards
Rufus Lewis
Anasta Dove

Edward Dowdy	new member
Naomi Weste	
Charles Bailey	
Nathalie Payne	
Cyril Bridgewater	new member

Bascus' Views

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 2 Oct 82 p 8

[Column "Frankly Speaking" by R. A. Bascus]

[Text]

From General Manager to General Secretary! Well anyway you want to look at it, I still remain a General,

and that is a fairly high rank in any army, isn't it? I have been called upon once again to lend some as-

sistance to the A.T.L.U., this time in the capacity of General Secretary. The duties of this office

are not new to me as I have been very closely associated with past General Secretaries already.

I consider the offer to serve the A.T.L.U. again as a challenge, almost like in 1967-68 when I was instrumental in assisting the formation of the Junior Executive in the days when the W.U.M. - P.U.M. man said that he gave the A.T.L.U. six months before it would be gobbled up by the A.W.U. The fight at that time was for survival. Today, it is still survival, but of a different nature. Today, Unions need to survive in a world which is gripped with inflation, recession and what else have you, a period in which businesses are closing on a daily basis and workers are being laid off by the thousands.

The survival today to me is a more serious one than the one posed a few years ago by Big George. The jobs of workers must be protected, but how can you ask an employer to keep his business open, when imported inflation is playing havoc with it, especially those which were manufacturing to export to U.S. mainland.

It is indeed a difficult period facing both workers and employers at this time, and as General Secretary of A.T.L.U., I have no time to waste on petty quarrels with other unions in the State. I intend to hold discussions with the progressive elements in all other unions as to ways and means of not only survival of our workers, but also to raise their level of living.

It is my intention also to hold serious dialogue with Government Ministers and private employers. I firmly believe that we are all interested in the well being of our new independent State, and so I believe with a little compromise on all sides that we can make this a reality.

In any society where a Government has its base in a blanket industrial union, there must inevitably be conflicts and disagreements here and there.

From the smashing up of the P.L.M. - A.W.U. combination, it is now apparent that there were very wide cracks existing between the A.W.U. and the P.L.M. One can get the whole picture by listening to meetings of both the P.L.M. and W.U.M. - P.U.M. Now I would not be honest to myself if I did not admit that I have noticed a few little cracks here and there in our Labour Movement.

So instead of papering them over like was done by the last Government, I intend to be one of the cement mixers who are going to pour concrete between those cracks after binding them with steel. Without a solid Labour Government and a strong A.T.L.U. this country would revert to the 1971-76 period.

I would therefore like to thank those who have placed their faith in me, and promise, with the assistance of my colleagues, to do my very best to serve the Union and the country.

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"That big gutter in Green Bay, the water nar go no way." That is true; and it would appear as the sum total of American aid to Antigua. While America would like us to be the show piece of American aid to the Caribbean they are attaching too many severe strings, almost opening us up for criminals and unscrupulous businessmen.

It is very difficult to see the tangible aid which this place has enjoyed from the U.S.A. over the years. They must pay heed to what the Deputy Prime Minister said at a public meeting the other night, that is, that the Americans should not take us for granted.

I quite agree and while I am not advocating a 'right

about' shift in our foreign policy, a new slant would have to be taken. We must be assisted in needed and tangible projects which are beneficial to all our people. After all aid from the Canadian and British Governments can be seen and appreciated, but not so America.

In spite of what is said about Grenada's ideology, they are fast becoming the 'show-piece' for proper development for the West Indies. In spite of their ideology, they have accepted aid from all quarters, most from Western Countries with the possible exception of the U.S.A.

Antigua is a poor under developed country and is in need of all the assistance which it can muster a proper development program with more emphasis being placed on Agriculture. What is wrong with us receiving assistance from where ever we can get it and that includes Cuba, Libya, North Korea and all Eastern European countries including the Soviet Union. Notable exception should be South Africa, Chile and Israel.

We all know that America is in a Trade-War with her European Allies, over the technology which they are supplying by agreement in order to build the pipe line from the U.S.S.R. to Europe in order to supply them with a percentage of their natural gas, which is very important to them.

Yet the same Americans have turned around and are once again selling wheat to the Soviets. It is high time that we make Uncle Reagan know that we have a restless population of young people to take care of, and unless he is willing to assist in a meaningful way then we would have to go else where.

## Response to Bascus

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 6 Oct 82 pp 1, 8

[Column "Not So!! Frankly Speaking" by Phyllis Joshua]

[Excerpts]

In Saturday's issue, October 3rd, "Frankly Speaking" stated that the development of Grenada is causing her to become the "showpiece" for the West Indies, and that they have accepted aid from all quarters. That he did not see there was anything wrong with our receiving assistance from where ever we could get it, and that includes Cuba, Libya, North Korea and all Eastern European countries including the Soviet Union."

Well, Mr. Frankly Speaking, I quite disagree with your statement. I can assure you that you are not singular in your thinking, for thousands of Antiguaners are ready to become Communist, solids, and thousands who dread that situation. I do not think that for a morsel of bread, we should sell our Birthright.

It does not matter to many of us how Grenada is progressing, we all know her ideologies, and locally disagree. Why should we now accept those ideologies because Antigua is "poor"? This statement to me, is very mean, and in the end joining with the A.C.L.M. Much has been done by that Party to get Antiguaners to see Cuba's way, to get Antiguaners to accept Soviet way. How then can you be you, Mr. Frankly Speaking voicing such an opinion?

While I do not agree for Mr. Reagan to use Antigua as a scapegoat, I will not, will not agree for us to accept "AID" from any and every where, because we are poor. Antigua is

poor, because many of the Politicians are thinking of themselves not the people. Some are hoarding riches trying to see how much money can be saved from their term in office. Many Top Civil Servants help themselves with Govt. money and property. Every now and then there is a great loss - cash and material. What about the speeding excursions? and the like.

What about the abuse of Public vehicles and the private use of such vehicles for other private purposes and the users, drawing a monthly travelling allowance? What about the number of ordered car tires that have never been used on Govt. vehicles, but sold or given to friends, well-wishers, girl friends, and boy friends, relatives? Don't all these dishonesties make a Nation poor? Then because of these we must submit ourselves and seek aid from anywhere no matter how or where, as long as we get it? This is bad policy.

I have often thought sooner or later, there may be no Christian in Antigua. Therefore I do pray night and day that the Lord would lengthen the Life-span of our Prime Minister the Honourable Vere Cornwall Bird Sr. for the day he closes his eyes in death we may be doomed for the younger politicians would sell us out - money! Help no matter from whom or where - as long as it is got.

Many of our politicians are Busi-

ness - Men, many own-vehicles, and trade is carried on. The support of these comes from our citizens, and I feel these could do more to help the Nation, other than the discussions in Parliament. Business places have donated gifts we hear of various firms donating, individuals too, and I was glad when I heard of one politician donating a small gift to sports.

As we look around in many constituencies there is poverty. I have found some children who do not attend school - no clothes some blind who have no one to take care - neighbours help. Chicken we say is cheap, but this is not all, some get no balance diet - malnutrition in some areas, is showing itself, then insanity may follow.

In spite of this, I think we could survive without seeking help from Cuba or Soviet Russia, if all put hands to the pumps. When we count ourselves as continual "Beggars and Borrowers", we lack self-dependence - can't stand on our own two legs. Infact we allow our legs to become weak by not using them, and so we remain weaklings. As 1982 is fast coming to a close let us strengthen our motto - "Build a new Antigua, one and all".

Yes Mr. Frankly Speaking, if Antigua should seek help from the Soviet Union or Cuba, when they actually become our Rulers, you could never be a Senator for the new Governors are already in the P.L.M. only waiting to pounce down.



## HANNA READS BUDGET REPORT AT HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FL081831 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The deputy prime minister and minister of finance, The Honorable Arthur D. Hanna, made his budget communication in the House of Assembly this morning. Mr Hanna said the government has managed the affairs of the country well, and noted how the 1982 budget was precisely on target. He said the revenue performance this year is a praiseworthy achievement.

Turning to the 1983 budget, Mr Hanna announced revenue-producing measures to help fund expanded programs in tourism, industry, social services and security services.

[Begin Hanna recording] The estimated revenue on recurrent accounts is \$337 million. The estimated expenditure on recurrent accounts is \$335.8 million. I predict, therefore, a surplus of about \$1.2 million which I propose to contribute to the capital development fund. I have allocated a total of \$63.3 million to education, including the college of the Bahamas, an increase of \$2.5 million or 4 percent over 1982. The Ministry of Health will receive \$45 million, an increase of \$2.3 million or 5.4 percent over 1982.

As I have said before, I have increased the Ministry of Tourism's budget by \$8.1 million to \$29.3 million, which represents an increase of 38.5 percent over last year.

Mr Speaker: I have signed an order earlier today increasing customs duties on gasoline, vehicles, cigarette paper, cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, antennae, receivers and accessories, video recorders and accessories, boats, funfare games, coin or disc-operated gaming machines and gaming equipment. [End recording]

The good news coming out of the budget communication for people receiving old age pensions is that the pensions are being increased to \$100 per month and should be paid by Christmas, if everything goes well.

CSO: 3298/1166

## GOVERNMENT REPORTS 21.5 PERCENT EXPORTS INCREASE

FL081858 Bridgetown CANA in English 1829 GMT 8 Dec 82

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Dec, CANA--Barbados today announced a 21.5 per cent increase in exports for the first 11 months of this year, compared to the same period last year.

Chairman of the Barbados export promotion corporation (EPC) Duncan Turney told reporters here that total exports for the period January to November were 408.4 million dollars (one BDS dollar; 50 cents U.S.) compared to 336.1 million dollars for the same period in 1981. The rise was 72.3 million dollars.

He said however that the export figures for 1982 had been inflated by a January shipment of sugar from last year's crop. If this were excluded the figures would reflect a modest increase of 8.8 per cent, Mr Turney said.

Total exports, excluding sugar, were 309.1 million dollars (BDS) for the 11 months in 1982 as against 284.7 million dollars (BDS) in 1981.

"The sections mainly responsible for this increase were chemicals 13.9 per cent, machinery and transport equipment 50.5 per cent and miscellaneous manufactured articles 33.5 per cent," he said.

Mr Turney said that significant falls in exports had been experienced in two major categories, beverages and tobacco declining by 10.8 per cent and manufactured articles classified chiefly by materials by 6.6 per cent.

The PEC officials said that a further break-down of categories showed that exports of furniture, electrical components and garments are still continuing to be the most buoyant items.

Exports of furniture increased from 4.7 million dollars (BDS) to 10.2 million dollars, a hike of 116.4 per cent. Sales abroad of electrical components went up by 72.7 per cent from 71.7 million dollars to 123.8 million dollars (BDS) and garments from 50.2 million dollars to 65.5 million dollars, a hike of 30.6 per cent.

Mr Turney said that the United States still remained Barbados' major trading partner absorbing 37.6 per cent of total exports for the period January to November 1982, compared with 42.2 per cent during the same period last year.

Sales to CARICOM member countries were 31.9 per cent of the 11 month total compared to 34.0 per cent for the same period last year, a decline of three per cent.

Mr Turney said that Trinidad and Tobago has continued to be Barbados' major trading partner within CARICOM, consuming some 61.5 per cent of Barbados' total CARICOM exports, while exports to Jamaica were down four million dollars on last year's January to November figures, with exports at 15.9 million dollars compared to 19.9 million dollars in 1981.

Exports to Trinidad and Tobago, CARICOM, European Economic Community (EEC) and the U.S. have increased by 44.4 per cent, 13.9 per cent, 25.4 per cent and 8.2 per cent respectively, he said.

CS0: 3298/1165

## GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR REVIEW IMPORTS

Belize SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Nov 82 pp 1, 16

[Text] The government after consultations with officials of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Private Sector Organization, has made a review of the arrangements for the issuing of import licences for certain commodities.

The review was made to determine which articles should be prohibited from importation, which will still require licences and which will require no licences at all.

Government took into account, in reaching its decision, whether the article is being produced locally in sufficient quantities. Another factor taken into consideration is whether there is a local substitute for the imported article, and also whether the article is a luxury item, an essential commodity or an unnecessary acquisition.

Some of the articles which will be prohibited include: aerated waters, mops and brooms, wooden crates, corn and corn products (excluding breakfast cereals, fish all types, including canned fish, with the exception of sardines and tuna; honey, jams, jellies, macaroni and spaghetti, and all dried pasta products, matches, pepper sauce, posts and poles, gravel, stones, sand, tiles (cement) recapped tyres; rice, peanuts, fresh milk and fresh meats. These are the main articles that are being prohibited for importation.

The list of the articles for which a licence has to be obtained /before an order is placed/ [underscored] are things like barbed wire, beans (all types except canned) aerated dietetic drinks, bleaching agents, books and exercises, printed forms, writing tablets, cattle, compressors for diving, corrugated galvanized sheets, detergents for laundry (all kinds) undershirts, dishwashing liquid, eggs in shell (hen), fat products and oils, fertilizer (organic and inorganic) flowers, fruits (fresh) furniture made of wood, gases (oxygen and acetylene), handbags for commercial purposes (any bag made of a polyethylene monofilamente fibre with a simple woven mesh) lumber, mattresses, baby formula, meat and meat preparations (chilled or frozen) mixed fruit and mixed peel, pork products, other than fresh pork, preserved fruits in syrup, potatoes (not sweet), sugar confectionaries,

including chewing gum, sugar (not granulated) turpentine, vegetables (all types fresh), and certain types of wearing apparel like shirts, briefs, and undershirts.

Goods which have been removed from the list which no longer require licence include butter, brandy, cigarettes, chicle, cinnamon, cloves, garlic, onions, pepper (black), salt, whisky, toilet soap.

Minister of Trade and Industry, the Hon. Guadalupe Pech, in a statement to the House on Friday, Nov. 4, explained government's concern about the foreign exchange reserves position which has been slowly eroded by the fall in world prices of our traditional exports, on the one hand, and by the excessive and increasing importation of commodities and consumer items, many of them being produced locally in Belize.

What the importer has to realize is that for every (US) dollar paid out for goods, imported into Belize the country should earn an equal amount if it is not to lose its reserves.

The mercantile community has been asked to look very closely at those things which are unnecessary to import.

CSO: 3298/1157



## POLITICAL PARTIES OF REGION GIVE SUPPORT TO BELIZE

Belize SUNDAY TIMES in English 7 Nov 82 pp 6, 7, 10, 16

[Text] Meeting in Belize from 26 to 29 October 1982 to discuss how the Independent Belize relates to Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of: Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional of Nicaragua, Partido de Liberacion Nacional of Costa Rica, Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario of El Salvador, Partido Revolucionario Dominicano of Republica Dominicana, Partido Revolucionario Democratico of Panama, Partido Accion Democratica of Venezuela, Partido Socialista Democratico of Guatemala, People's National Party of Jamaica, New Jewel Movement of Grenada, ALIPO of Honduras, Partido Revolucionario Institucional of Mexico, Barbados Labour Party of Barbados and the People's United Party of Belize, agreed to the following declaration:

1. The Parties represented expressed unconditional support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize; called for absolute respect for its demarcated borders; and stressed that the use or threat of force by the government of Guatemala towards Belize is inadmissible. They supported the position of the government of Belize that a solution to the controversy cannot be at the sacrifice of its territorial integrity. They welcomed the expressions of solidarity by popular democratic organizations in Guatemala for the independence and territorial integrity of Belize and expressed the conviction that a democratic government in Guatemala would no longer maintain the unjust claim to the territory of Belize. With a view to strengthening the independence and sovereignty of Belize and of gaining universal respect and recognition for its independence, they expressed the hope that Belize would soon enjoy diplomatic and other relations with the countries of the region without discrimination; and that Belize would soon assume its rightful place as a full member of hemispheric organizations.
2. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of national self-determination, respect for sovereignty, and the right to choose their own political, economic and social systems, free from all types of external interference and pressures.
3. In particular they reiterated their commitment to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

4. They reaffirmed their support for the democratic system understood as the full participation of peoples in the economic, social and political development of the nation.
5. They demanded respect for human rights as an indispensable requirement for the development of the countries.
6. They expressed their concern over the deteriorating political situation in the region which has resulted in increased tensions and a greater risk of regional confrontation.
7. They rejected the concept that this situation can be fit into the context of the so-called East-West conflict, and affirmed that the real causes are found in the traditional repressive power structures, in an inefficient and unjust international economic order and, in some cases, in national economic structures that produce inequality, poverty and misery. The revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean are the expression of the popular majorities to improve their living conditions and to liberate themselves.
8. They strongly condemned all vestiges of colonialism in the world and in particular in the Caribbean, and expressed support for the independence movements in any country of the Caribbean presently subjected to the colonial yoke in their struggle for freedom, independence and liberation, and endorsed the COPPAL declaration of La Paz, Bolivia in that respect.
9. They expressed their support for the policy of non-alignment as an instrument for strengthening independence and democracy in the region.
10. They declared that respect for ideological pluralism is indispensable for the promotion of harmonious relations between countries and for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.
11. They reiterated their concern at the arms race and its absorption of resources that could be devoted to promote national development.
12. They expressed concern at the threats to peace in the region and expressed support for declaring the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace free from military manoeuvres on the part of interests alien to the region.
13. They recognized the need to promote political negotiated solutions to the Central American and Caribbean crisis, and in particular expressed support for the peace initiative of Mexico and Venezuela.
14. They expressed support for the proposal for dialogue by the Frente Democrático Revolucionario and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional presented to the government of El Salvador on 5 October, 1982.
15. They declared their concern over the increase of political repression and the gross violation of human rights in El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti.

16. In particular, they called for the release of Carlos Molina, Luis Antonio Menjivar, Jorge Herrera, David Elias, leaders of the Frente Democratico Revolucionario and Mauricio Domenech, member of the National Executive Committee of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), now being held in the jails of El Salvador.

17. They expressed their concern over the appearance of symptoms of deterioration for the respect of human rights in Honduras and viewed with sympathy the interest shown by the National Congress of that country to investigate cases of the violation of human rights.

18. They rejected all attempts to exclude from any discussion any country involved in the regional conflict.

19. They strongly condemned any political or military manoeuvre promoted by interests alien to the region tending to isolate or threaten Nicaragua with aggression.

20. They expressed support for the people of Grenada in their struggle to build a just society and attain meaningful development and condemned any attempt to isolate Grenada and threaten the process of development of that country.

21. They insisted on the strict application of the Panama Canal Treaties; defended the sovereignty and neutrality of Panama and condemned any utilization of foreign military bases temporarily situated in Panama for ends different to the protection of the Panama Canal.

#### Cooperation

22. Recognized that the actual schemes of cooperation and integration in the region are inadequate.

23. Expressed the need to continue the struggle against forces that militate against integration and the process of development of the peoples of the region.

24. Agreed to seek the strengthening of regional cooperation and the increase of trade within the region as a means of promoting self-sufficiency.

25. They recognized that regional cooperation will only be beneficial if it is based on a common platform of improvement for the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean and if it is established with the objective of strengthening the independence of our countries and our collective self-reliance.

26. Suggested the possibility of establishing a mechanism of cooperation between CARICOM and the Central American Common Market and between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Central American Bank, and expressed their support for the efforts at integration being carried out by Central American and Caribbean countries.

27. Considered that cooperation between the countries of the region is necessary to strengthen their capacity to negotiate with industrialized countries in the North-South dialogue and in other negotiations.

28. They suggested that efforts be intensified to promote educational, cultural and sport exchanges between countries of the two sub-regions and in particular recommended:

1. The establishment of a Language Centre in Belize to teach English and Spanish to peoples of the two sub-regions;
2. The publication of a monthly bi-lingual Journal of the Caribbean Basin;
3. The establishment of a system of exchange of national radio and television programs with a view to promoting, in the longer term, a Caribbean Basin Radio and Television network.
4. The promotion of seminars with the participation of Central American and Caribbean political parties with a view to increasing understanding of the structural problems of the two sub-regions.

29. They expressed their solidarity with the concern of young members of the People's United Party for the improvement of the organization and full participation of the youth arm of the Party in the political process of Belize and expressed their willingness to collaborate in concrete ways with the efforts to be made in that direction.

30. They thanked the People's United Party and the Fredreich Ebert Foundation for inviting them to this conference, and expressed their appreciation to the people and government of Belize and to the People's United Party for their warm hospitality.

1. Regarding Paragraph 8, the Barbados Labour Party reserved its position on "and endorsed the COPPAL declaration of La Paz, Bolivia in that respect."
2. With respect to paragraph one, the delegation of Accion Democratica reserves its position but clearly affirms its firm and full support for the independence and sovereignty of Belize.

CSO: 3298/1157

DIRECT TALKS WITH GUATEMALA SAYS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Belize SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Nov 82 p A

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon C. L. B. Rogers says the only way Belize can have any talks with Guatemala is if there are direct talks.

Mr Rogers made the statement in an interview with the NEW BELIZE magazine.

He said the Belize Government does not have the responsibility to end the present stalemate on the issue.

"The Belize Government lived up to its word when it signed the Heads of Agreement. The Rios Montt Government has been negative and denounced the Heads of Agreement. Any attempt to talk is always spurned. They now say they do not recognize an Independent Belize," Mr Rogers said.

He added that any attempt must come from Guatemala at this stage (for a settlement of the dispute). But first they must recognize Belize.

The Deputy Prime Minister recalled that when the Guatemalan delegate informed the world that they were looking for direct talks with Britain he made it very clear and very public that Britain could not negotiate for Belize. That the only people who were entitled to speak for the Belizean people were the duly elected Government.

"I want to make it very clear that until we get over the question of recognition I don't think they (the Guatemalans) are going to talk to us direct. The only way we can have any talks is if there are direct talks," said Mr Rogers.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Belize must always be on the alert and never drop its guard. "We need the support of the nations of the world to understand our cause because the Guatemalans have never dropped their guard. They have consistently claimed our territory. They are isolated on the issue. Therefore we must keep the rest of the world apprised of it," Mr Rogers said.

CSO: 3298/1157



## PDT LEADERS TO FORGE CONTACTS WITH PT LEADERS, PMDB LEFT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Nov 82 p 2

[Text] Brasilia--"At the proper time, PDT [Democratic Labor Party] leaders should approach PT [Workers Party] leaders and representatives of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] Left, especially those from the 'authentic' group of the erstwhile MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement], to discuss the possibility of organizing a new party force," Brizolist (PDT) leader Alceu Collares announced in Brasilia yesterday.

The defeated candidate for governor of Rio Grande do Sul also announced that a date will be set for the PDT national convention, where the proposed name change is likely to be discussed. The PDT may become the PS--Socialist Party--he said, stressing that this is his position, that of Roberto Saturnino (RJ [Rio de Janeiro]) and Roge Ferreira (SP [Sao Paulo]), among other party leaders.

Alceu Collares, always seeking to stress the importance in the recent elections of the role played by his party and by Luis Ignacio (Lula) da Silva's PT--"the real opposition"--said that if necessary he would do it all over again. In his opinion, the PDT and the PT were the only ones to be aware of the need to organize new parties, without being primarily concerned with the outcome of the election.

He cited the example of socialist parties of Europe which participated in several elections before coming to power, such as Mitterrand in France and Felipe Gonzales in Spain.

He again asserted that many governors elected by the PMDB do not represent the opposition and "some of them, such as Gilberto Mestrinho of Amazonas, have announced that they do not intend to criticize or censure the president. As far as Alceu Collares is concerned, the victory of Gilberto Mestrinho in Amazonas, Iris Rezende in Goias and Gerson Camata in Espirito Santo, for example, "do not represent victories for the people, for the progressive opposition."

One newsman mentioned that, unlike Mestrinho and Camata, who came from the PP [Popular Party] and the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] respectively, Iris Rezende had always been in the MDB and later in the PMDB.

"But Iris' language, since his election was confirmed, is even closer to that of the regime than that of many PDS [Social Democratic Party] members," the Brizolist

leader replied. He also said that some governors elected by the PMDB "are already expressing a willingness to 'make a deal' with Planalto Palace."

He admitted that in Rio Grande do Sul voters were polarized between the PDS and the PMDB and, furthermore, linked voting gave greater importance to local issues. "Pedro Simon, a laborite, did not choose to join our party, preferring another, without any historic perspective, forgetting that in 1974 and 1978 he and Paulo Brossard were elected thanks to labor support," he stressed.

#### Rio de Janeiro

Asked about the expected victory of Leonel Brizola in Rio de Janeiro, the PDT leader stated that it represents "the greatest political phenomenon in Latin America, for a party with no more structure than it had to gain popular support in the state."

Collares confirmed that Monday "if the election outcome in Rio de Janeiro is settled," the PDT candidate, Leonel Brizola, is likely to travel abroad. But he did not say to which countries. "In Rio de Janeiro Brizola represented a real choice, the genuine opposition," the Rio Grande do Sul congressman said.

Regarding PDT strategy in the Chamber of Deputies in 1983, Alceu Collares believes the new leadership is likely to direct the party's members to act independently, "but always united with the opposition."

Part of such strategy, he admitted, is the PPT's support of the proposal by PMDB and PT leaders to organize the oppositionist bloc, numerically superior to the PDS representatives, to elect the new chamber president for the 1983-84 period.

8834

CSO: 3342/36

## EDITORIAL EXAMINES ROLE OF UNITED STATES IN OAS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Nov 82 p 3

[Editorial: "The United States and the OAS Role It Could Play"]

[Text] The 12th session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, a supranational and intercontinental body that was to promote political solidarity among the nations of the Americas, is now being held. The organization is clearly on the decline; not only many of its members but also many political observers have begun to question its existence. One of the subjects likely to be under discussion is in regard to the future of the organization, which, of course, suffered a mortal blow with the South Atlantic crisis provoked by the Falkland Islands dispute. However, long before the war caused by Argentine aggression, the causes of the organization's growing lack of vitality were already being questioned. The responsibility is collective and involves all the OAS members, who should be striving to comply with the institution's principles and procedures. After all, the OAS can only be what the member countries want it to be: the organization's future depends upon the political will of its members. Created to foster hemispheric cooperation, the OAS became essentially a social club of meager accomplishments, a scene of intense rhetoric but little action and even less work.

There are various reasons for the entity's decline. In the first place, the authority of the OAS has practically been eclipsed in comparison with the United Nations--in cases of litigation, the member countries themselves prefer to appeal to the United Nations, while at the same time trying to line up the Inter-American community to support their positions and interests to give them more substance. This was precisely the attitude of Argentina in the Falkland Islands crisis.

Secondly, this crisis revealed that, not only geographically and ethnically but also politically, there are really three Americas: Anglo-Saxon North America, Hispano-lusitanian Latin America, and the black anglophiles of the Caribbean and part of Central America. The United States, in the early stages of the South Atlantic crisis, tried to take on the role of mediator in the conflict between its leading European and Latin-American allies, but at the decisive moment chose Anglo-Saxon and Atlantic solidarity. It has only now decided not to support its chief European ally and back the Argentine and Latin-American proposal to continue debating the Falklands problem in the United Nations. As could not have been otherwise, such ambiguous positions taken by the United States had very negative impact on Latin America and the OAS. At the time of the South Atlantic crisis, the 10

Caribbean nations--Jamaica, Bahama, Surinam, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad, all former British colonies (except Surinam), took a position against Argentina in favor of self-determination for the Falklands inhabitants. In view of this situation, it is perfectly understandable that there are plans to reform the OAS, making it exclusively Latin American and excluding the United States.

The third and, perhaps, the major cause of the collapse of the OAS is the fact that the United States has been slighting the OAS, putting the problems of the nations south of the Rio Grande in last place on the scale of its priorities for international policy, after Europe, the Far East and the Middle East. On the eve of President Reagan's visit to three Latin American countries--to Brazil, in the first place--Secretary of State George Shultz appeared at a meeting of the OAS 12th General Assembly, where he gave a speech that was empty (or rather, full of commonplaces) and in which he extolled the importance of the IMF in solving the crucial problems of most countries of the Americas as a bond of union for the common furtherance of democracy and expressed himself in opposition to protectionism (!). Protectionism which, although a universal practice in today's world, dominated by the economic crisis, is the way in which the United States hampers hemispheric trade cooperation and the possibility of betterment for developing countries that would like to believe in the efficacy of applying the "trade, not aid" principle. Thinking about the crucial problems of Central America, Shultz recommended adoption of measures whose application he himself--knowing the nature of the Cuban-Nicaraguan-Soviet penetration--considers unworkable: suspension of arms imports and withdrawal of foreign military advisers.

We believe the United States could represent a cohesive force in the OAS if it avoided the two extremes of its Latin American policy: the already outdated "big stick" and the "low profile" which currently deprives the hemisphere's superpower of its capacity for initiative. Central America, moreover, is eloquent proof that Latin America should be included among the priority goals of U.S. international policy.

8834

CSO: 3342/36

## ABI-ACKEL STUDIES MONTORO PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH SAO PAULO DOPS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAC PAULO in Portuguese 24 Nov 82 p 14

[Text] Brazilia--Announcement of plans to abolish the Sao Paulo DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order] by the Montoro government was followed closely by the Justice Ministry and the Federal Police Department [DPF]. Arthur Castilho, secretary general of the Justice Ministry, limited himself to commenting that everything could be done according to law, but he doubted that would happen. Senior-level DPF officials, in turn, again cited "internal regulations" to avoid direct comments, but admitted that the matter is being dealt with "higher up" in the office of Justice Minister Abi-Ackel and in the National Security Council.

According to information gleaned from the Justice Ministry, the measure had been anticipated by the authorities and, should the existing agreement between federal police and the Sao Paulo DOPS--for the latter to investigate punitive infractions against national security--be terminated or not renewed, the DPF has a plan ready for completely taking over the services now assigned to the Sao Paulo Civil Police.

Several authorities questioned, who requested not to be named, acknowledged that the Sao Paulo DOPS had become oversized, having been favored with funds earmarked for political repression and became more powerful than warranted. It would be advisable, according to these authorities, for it not to be so extensive, to the point of sometimes rivaling the DEIC [Criminal Investigation Department].

Regarding the investigation of national security infractions, the authorities noted that the federal police have been taking over this function to an increasing degree, despite the existing agreement, leaving very little for the Sao Paulo DOPS to do in that area. They stressed, however, that regardless of formal structures there is a close link between DOPS, through its chief deputy, Romeu Tuma, and the intelligence and security community, "and these connections are not dissolved by decree."

The alien and immigration service, also provided by the civil police, has been criticized by the federal police, who have received many complaints about corruption and inefficient operations. Federal authorities also have a plan ready to modernize and automate this service in Sao Paulo, replacing the approximately 300 Sao Paulo police with less than 100 federal police. These studies, however, are being held up awaiting announced reforms for the Federal Department of Justice, part of the Justice Ministry, which will take over control of foreigners' arrival in and departure from the country.



Another area of collaboration between the federal and Sao Paulo police is drug suppression. It is mainly in this area that the federal government is not in a position to fill all the gaps that would be left by the departure of the civil police. The federal deputies assigned to the sector, however, see no possibility of changes in the battle against drug traffic and abuse, whether the state government is run by the PDS [Social Democratic Party] or by the opposition.

The same sources speculated that the security and intelligence community, which has in the federal police one of its main operating instruments, will not permit breakdown of its operating network, which now includes DOPS. Any action by future governor Franco Montoro in this direction will be met by a federal move toward strengthening its alternative structures, such as the PM [Military Police] Reserve Service, which will continue to be controlled by the Army Ministry.

8834

CSO: 3342/36

## THIRD ARMY COMMANDER ON POSSIBILITY OF CIVILIAN PRESIDENT

## 'They Are All Brazilians'

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Nov 82 p 9

[Text] Porto Alegre--Third Army commander Gen Henrique Beckmann Filho said in Porto Alegre yesterday that "it is quite possible" the nation's next president "could be a civilian" and if the National Congress should approve a bill ruling that the president will be elected by direct vote, "he undoubtedly will be." Beckman Filho presided yesterday at the Flag Day ceremonies held at 18th Motorized Infantry Battalion (BIMIZ) headquarters and also spoke about the results of the recent election and development of the Brazilian political process. "I believe the president will push ahead with the liberalization process as long as his health permits," he added. "And we will pray that this happens."

About the elections, the general asserted: "I believe the Brazilian people were in agreement with the president when he took office--a heavy responsibility. He promised he would make this nation a democracy. Our president fulfilled and is fulfilling his commitment and the Brazilian people are proof of this. He wanted very deeply that the democratic system have an example and he was the basis for such an example. The people understood this and there was a heavy voter turnout; as you know, there were very few abstentions. And the Brazilian people are to be congratulated for this. The 15 November election was a civic act and the people expressed themselves fully. The results prove it."

Continuing on the same subject, the Third Army commander recalled that "the winners have a very solemn commitment to the voters who put them in office. They must be worthy of the trust that has been placed in them. And our hope is that, through free elections and without any pressure, the governor, the legislature, the state administration and the federal government will fulfill their commitment to the voters."

## Opposition

Beckmann termed participation by several parties in the election "very valuable in a democratic regime." He admitted that division of the opposition may have had something to do with the PDS [Social Democratic Party] victory in a majority of states. "The rules of the game were established and everyone followed the

rules of the game. They are saying: 'What if the opposition had been united?' But why weren't they united? The problem is that the parties would have disappeared. That is the problem. There were prior conditions for the parties to become established. ... I believe we should have a multiparty system. I think it would be a victory for democracy in our country. If we go back to the two-party system, we shall be going back to things as they were before."

The possible victory of Leonel Brizola in Rio de Janeiro would not come as a surprise to the Third Army commander. "I think that would be quite normal, and the same thing goes for Franco Montoro, Gerson Camata and Jose Richa. It is good to have opposition governments in the states. It is typical of democracy." He denied any basis to the speculation that if the opposition wins a majority of the states there could be a reversal of the liberalization policy: "I don't expect that, under any circumstances... Some people would like to take advantage of this, but I don't expect it. I believe the president will go ahead with the liberalization process as long as his health permits. And this is what we pray will happen."

Some political observers are predicting that after the new governors take office, especially in states where the opposition won, grass-roots protest movements are likely to grow, putting the governors in the middle. On the one hand, the people demanding that promises be kept. On the other, a lack of needed funds from the central government, perhaps creating an impasse between state and federal governments. How does the Third Army commander view this possibility?

"No," said Beckmann. "I don't see it that way. Of course the people will make demands. If they put the governor in office, they will demand that what he promised, what the people want, be accomplished. The governor will have to comply because, if not, at the next election the people will have a different answer than they had this time. Where will he get the money? That's the governor's problem. I am sure that relations with the federal government are going to be very good."

But will the opposition have to make concessions in order to govern effectively? he was asked. "I don't know," he said. "It will depend on circumstances at the time."

#### Congress

The opposition is likely to get a majority of the vote in several states, but the general does not consider this very significant as a public judgment or response to the government's action. In his view the important thing is the makeup of the new congress. "Look at it this way," he explained. "I believe the people gave a response to the government. Now, you are interpreting that according to what might have happened. Look at it as it is. The people gave their response to the government. And what if the government gets a majority in the federal Chamber of Deputies? I know that, according to the press, the government will have a majority in the Senate. In the Chamber, the outcome is still undecided. Let's wait until the final returns are in to see what the makeup of the Chamber of Deputies looks like."

#### Succession

Beckmann then analyzed the next steps in the political process. First of all, congress must vote on the bill instituting voting by district. "From there, we

go on to the presidential succession. I'm sure that process will begin sometime next year. For the moment, it is expected to be by indirect vote. That is what is established. This can be changed by congress. For the present, the vote will be indirect."

If the constitution is amended, instituting direct election of the president, the elections "will be held, without doubt," the general asserted. And he repeated: "Without doubt they will be held. But don't forget that the government can also work out a deal with its own party and with opposition parties. We have examples of this the world over. Look at Germany, for instance."

"Could the next president be a civilian?" he was asked.

Beckmann said the process will unfold beginning next year. "And it is quite possible that it could be a civilian. It could also be a military man--because they are all Brazilians--as long as he meets the requirements of the constitution... and, of course, has an attractive personality, because even if the election is indirect it will still be an election, through the Electoral College."

The general admitted the possibility of revisions in the National Security Law and the so-called Falcao Law. "The National Security Law," he said, "I think is good. I see it from the military point of view. But it is the legislative branch that changes it. It is the National Congress. If they change it, of course the law will be obeyed, because they make the laws and everyone has to obey them." Regarding the Falcao Law: "Now, this is a law that is on the books, that is being discussed frequently. It is, in fact, a law that, if one looks at it through the eyes of the press, is not very desirable, and even the government party thinks it should be changed."

#### Bodyguard

The Third Army commander was very receptive and quite well mannered yesterday after the Flag Day ceremonies. Everything would have ended very well if at the end a man in civilian clothes wearing a blue striped suit who a few minutes before the end of the interview was motioning to reporters and pushing them away from the general had not spoken rudely to a newsman. Apparently, he was the general's bodyguard.

The reporter protested because the presumed bodyguard was pushing him away from the commander while Beckmann was still speaking. "If the general is still speaking, the interview is still going on, and I have to hear what he has to say," complained the reporter. The general, who happened to overhear the conversation, agreed: "That's right." But in spite of the general's agreement, the man harshly told the reporter to "shut up." The journalist continued to argue, saying that this was not a very nice way to carry on a conversation. The presumed bodyguard closed the dialogue threateningly: "Look me up later in the 'Q6' [translation unknown]."

At yesterday's ceremony in the 18th BIMTZ headquarters, General Beckmann Filho awarded 23 military personnel and 2 civilians the Peacemaker Medal.

## Denies Military Involvement

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Nov 82 p 8

[Text] Porto Alegre--Third Army commander Gen Henrique Beckmann Filho said yesterday in Cachoeira do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul (199 kilometers from Porto Alegre) that the military will not be involved in the choice of President Figueiredo's successor unless there is "an alteration in the nation's life." When asked to what extent the military could participate in the process, he replied: "The military, no. We are a component of the government, responsible--mark my words--for internal defense. This is our mission. The constitution gives us a mission and we are to perform our mission as stipulated in that document. If there is any internal or external alteration we of course will be called upon. The constitution calls for defense of the organs instituted by the republic and the internal and external defense of our nation."

But the general believes any discussion now about the presidential succession is premature. "Unless I am mistaken, our president still has 2 years of his term to serve. So another event that might disturb the government's administrative peace could have adverse consequences. But next March, barely after the new chamber and Senate, state governors and assemblies have taken office, the succession process will begin to unfold, which is another of the president's promises," he asserted.

Beckmann again said that normal conduct of elections confirms President Figueiredo's intention "to make this nation a democracy" and repeated that speculations about whether his successor would be civilian or military has no significance. "All are Brazilians and must meet the essential requirements, such as minimum age, trustworthiness and a certain vote-getting personality so he is able to win an election. "Hence," he added, "he can be a civilian just as well as military. He must be a Brazilian. We military are Brazilians just as much as are the civilians."

He also commented about the Army General Staff meeting in Brasilia at the beginning of the week--which ended up delaying his trip to Cachoeira do Sul--and asserted that only administrative matters, such as promotions of general officers, were discussed. The Third Army commander is in Cachoeira participating in "Operation Jacui," which brings together 13 general officers of that region and of Santa Cruz do Sul and which began Monday.

The operation consists of training exercises for the general staffs of army divisions and brigades for field application of doctrinal principles about locating command posts and communication systems. Similar exercises are being conducted in the 5th Military region, in the region of Palmas and Clevelandia, in Parana. Beckmann Filho will remain in Cachoeira do Sul until tomorrow.

8834

CSO: 3342/36



## BRIEFS

TV SERVICE--Cayman Communications Corporation (CCC) has been awarded a licence for 20 years under the Broadcasting Law to provide television services to Cayman Islands. The contract was signed on Thursday by the Governor of Cayman, His Excellency Mr. Peter Lloyd, and Mr. Ted Fielder, of CCC, the GLEANER learnt. According to the terms of the contract, the Corporation must commence transmission of television programmes over the air within six months. This will be provided by transmitters on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac which will cover Little Cayman. Within twelve months the Corporation plans to offer subscribers in the Caymans a cable-system providing a further eleven channels. This will be in addition to three channels provided initially by the Corporation, the GLEANER understands. [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 20]

CSO: 3298/134

## VICAR OF SOLIDARITY PRAISES EXILE RETURN MEASURES

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Nov 82 p C 5

[Text] The vicar of solidarity, Msgr Juan de Castro, yesterday expressed his support for the presidential decision regarding exiles, at the same time saying that we must "encourage the authorities so that they will feel the support of thousands of Chileans for a clear democratic opening."

However, he called for a realistic approach to the measure so that no false hopes will be raised, "since other announcements concerning particular aspects of human rights have not resulted in the improvement which was announced," he said.

In a letter to the pastors, Vicar de Castro discussed the presidential announcement as well as the various reactions to the measure.

He mentioned as a general consideration that the announcement is "the first public and positive manifestation by the president of the republic of the government's willingness to review the situation of thousands of Chilean exiles."

"However," he added, "the presidential announcement does not mean recognition by the government of every Chilean's right to live in the fatherland. It is a question, rather, of 'studying those who are planning to return,' that is, of examining their records for the purpose of applying or revoking the measure as it applies to them.

"The constitutional provisions which permit the authorities to ignore that right in certain cases, therefore, are being retained. Also being retained are the states of constitutional exception (the state of emergency and that of endangerment of the domestic peace), which authorize the executive branch to exile individuals by administrative means."

He emphasized that "as the interior minister himself has said, the government has not renounced those powers, either expressly or tacitly."

He added that the commission which will study the return of exiles, in accordance with the presidential announcement, "will be eminently consultative and not resolute. Therefore, although it may consider that a particular petition for review conforms to the criteria established by the government, the latter, in any case, reserves to itself the power to decide the case at its discretion."

## No Negativism

"While making clear our support for the presidential decision, we cannot help but call for a realistic approach to the measure, not with a negativistic zeal, nor much less to distort the measure itself; it is rather a question of not raising false hopes, beyond what is reasonable, which may lead to frustration of those involved and to an increase in their suffering, which is already considerable. It also concerns encouraging the authorities, so that they will feel the support of thousands of Chileans for a clear democratic opening.

"Actually, on other occasions the government has made announcements concerning individual cases involving human rights, announcements which unfortunately did not result in the improvement announced. We might recall the announcement of the end of the state of war (11 September 1974), which was replaced by the state of siege as a domestic defense measure; the replacement of DINA [National Intelligence Department] by CNI [National Information Center], a new agency which had no executive functions; the repeated official promises to investigate the disappearance of citizens, 'following any serious lead which may appear with respect to any given case' (The bishops presented 476 cases of disappeared persons in which there was evidence of their arrest); the announcement (30 April 1975) made during a ceremony of special solemnity concerning the legal protection of the right to trial of persons arrested for crimes against national security (a third of the disappearances took place after the promulgation of this Decree Law 1009); the hopes that were awakened, especially among the exiled, by the amnesty decree law of April, 1978.

"We do not recall these facts to cause trouble. In the spirit of collaborating with this measure, to implement it, this vicariate is willing, as in the past, to advise the families of exiles in adequately expediting the necessary petitions," he concluded.

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## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PROGRAM TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 16 Nov 82 p 4

[Text] The government will implement a "subsidy-brake" to keep unemployment down; it will consist of direct state support to cover part of each firm's payroll. The subsidy will be in addition to the current subsidy for hiring additional manpower, will last at least a year, and will involve an amount higher than the 1,200 pesos per month paid now under the first system.

The announcement of this program, whose "target" is to achieve a 15-percent unemployment rate in the first quarter of next year, will be made today by Minister of Economics and Finance Rolf Luders, during his participation in the opening of the National Business Encounter.

According to background information obtained yesterday from official sources in the economic sector, the unemployment "subsidy-brake" (in the words of those sources) will expire the moment a business fires a worker. In this way, "the benefit will serve as a brake on unemployment, or as an incentive to keep the worker on the job."

As a result of all the manpower subsidies in effect (the current additional one, the "100,000 program" and this new mechanism), it is estimated that by the end of 1983 unemployment should have dropped by 300,000 to 400,000 people.

The initiative was studied by a National Employment Commission created a few months ago as an alternative to take immediate action on the jobless problem in the short term.

It was noted that in the medium term there is still confidence that the elimination of certain "rigidities" (such as wages) and the expected reactivation of the economy will generate more employment.

## Reactivation

Nevertheless, "we do not have much hope that the reactivation will be very significant from the employment standpoint, in the first place because the increase in activity will not be too significant, either. Moreover, it is difficult to quantify its effect, or that of the elimination of certain institutional rigidities."

Consequently, "the idea is to maintain active participation by the government to deal with unemployment with actions that will certainly be maintained for a couple of years, and can be stepped up or cut back depending on the degree of recovery that takes place in terms of the overall reactivation of the economy."

#### Budget Supplement

The unemployment "subsidy-brake" will be wholly financed with fiscal resources--whose amount was not specified because "it is not completely defined yet"--for which "a supplement will surely be required for the 1983 National Budget."

Another action that was recommended by the Employment Commission and will be put into practice, aims at strengthening state financial support for all projects that generate or absorb a large quantity of manpower. "It is a matter of financing any project that meets this requirement and is also somewhat profitable."

The target of 15 percent unemployment set by the government, and the design of the "subsidy-brake" program, are based on official estimates that unemployment in the nation "is at more or less the same level as in Santiago," which in the August-October quarter was 25.2 percent, not counting the PEM.

"Unemployment in Greater Santiago is quite representative of what is happening on a national level," admitted official sources, "with a certain, insignificant percentage of error above or below this level. Although there are areas where 15 percent is no target because unemployment is below that, there are also others that exceed Santiago's 25 percent."

The budgetary resources envisioned in this program "will be allocated as equitably as possible, although they will be focused on the areas and zones where the problem is greatest."

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## ODEPLAN ANALYZES DEBT, CAPACITY TO PAY OF VARIOUS SECTORS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Nov 82 p B 1

[Text] The industrial sector began to reduce its indebtedness last June, while the commerce sector's debt continued to mount. This is revealed in the "Analysis of the Indebtedness and Payment Capacity of the Various National Economic Sectors," compiled by the National Planning Office (ODEPLAN) at the request of the Finance Ministry.

The exhaustive study on the debt, profitability and ability of each sector to meet its financial obligations was delivered to Luders by ODEPLAN's director, Gen Sergio Perez, on 17 November.

According to ODEPLAN Assistant Director Jose Yourazseck, in the future this study will be updated on a quarterly basis.

## Results

According to the study, last June the majority of sectors were unable to pay off their debts, and even had problems covering interest payments.

Between late June and late September, however (the latest figures available), a favorable turnaround began to be seen in most productive sectors.

An analysis of the forestry and fishing, mining, industrial and commercial sectors reveals that only the latter saw its debts increase significantly in the last 3 months.

## Industry

The total commitments of the industrial sector amounted to 271.736 billion pesos as of 30 September, of which 58 percent was owed to banks.

The debt/capital ratio, which reveals the percentage of financial obligations with respect to the sector's total assets, increased from 0.6 percent in December 1980 to 0.94 percent last June, with a slight downward trend after the devaluation of the peso.

The study indicates that the industrial sector's ability to meet its financial obligations has declined "drastically." At this time interest

payments represent 79 percent of the volume of resources (flow) that the sector is capable of generating. At the end of last year that figure was 52 percent.

It also notes that "the composition of the debt varies significantly among businesses of different sizes. While the debt to banks represents more than 70 percent of the total debt of large businesses, that figure is less than 35 percent among small firms. The latter replace the bank debt with suppliers and others."

#### Mining

With respect to mining, the study indicates that the level of indebtedness has grown at a fast pace, although in terms of capital it is still much lower than the other sectors.

The debt/capital ratio went from 0.18 at the end of 1981 to 0.27 at present.

Concerning the sector's payment capacity, the study indicates that in December 1980 only 17 percent of the flow of income was earmarked to pay interest, while in late September that figure had risen to 71 percent.

In any case, it is noted that the rise of the dollar was especially beneficial to that sector, given that it is essentially an export sector. For that reason, the indicators should have begun to improve in recent months.

#### Commerce

Commerce has seen its situation deteriorate steadily throughout the year. According to the analysis, its debts total 169.988 billion pesos, of which 65 percent corresponds to commitments to banks.

The level of indebtedness in the sector at the end of last year represented 71 percent of its assets, while now it is pushing 100 percent. In fact, according to the study, the debt/capital ratio is exactly 1.

As for the sector's payment capacity, there has been an increase "in the amount and cost of indebtedness, coupled with a weak ability to generate resources, probably as a consequence of the fall in sales."

Whereas in December 1980 interest payments required only 6 percent of the flow of resources generated by commerce, by the end of September 1982 financial costs equalled more than 90 percent of the sector's operational income; this represents an improvement over last June, when that level exceeded 100 percent.

The above graphs show the percentage of debt compared to total capital (assets) for the forestry and fishing, mining, industrial and commercial sectors.

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## CONUPIA CHIEF DECRIES LOW DEMAND, BLEAK PROSPECTS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Nov 82 p C 1

[Article by Daniel Badilla]

[Text] Los Angeles--"The Chilean situation is very difficult. Unemployment has reached extremely high levels. Interest rates are expropriatory. Demand has slumped to dangerous levels. Bankruptcies are becoming alarmingly common, and the possibilities for recovery are slow and distant, said the national president of the National Single Confederation of Small Industry and Crafts (CONUPIA), Roberto Parrague, at the opening session of the first National Assembly of Small Industry and Crafts in this city.

The leader of small industrialists added that the above does not present a promising picture, but "neither is this the first time we face such a difficult situation." He said that "we have come out ahead, triumphant and strengthened in other times, so this period is crucial."

"It is crucial because despite the severity of the problem, we are hopeful about the government's efforts through Minister of Finance and Economics Rolf Luders to make the necessary corrections for a genuine reactivation," he went on.

In another part of his speech, the president of the trade organization expressed his appreciation for the president of the republic, who has held personal meetings with businessmen and industrialists at all levels "to hear their ideas and concerns."

He cited as a local example the chief of state's decision to reopen the sugar-beet processing plant in Los Angeles.

#### Favorable Initiative

Later on in his opening address, Roberto Parrague referred to the implementation of the Guarantee Fund for small businessmen. He indicated that today they are operating under conditions even better than when the fund was proposed by CONUPIA, stating that the Banco del Estado will return 100 percent of the loans to the commercial bank, undoubtedly a great incentive.

The national leader also emphasized the functioning of the first sectorial export committees. This task is being undertaken with the full cooperation of the Technical Cooperation Service (SERCOTEC) and CONUPIA. In a short time the committees will become an export consortium with ramifications of incalculable benefit for many businessmen in our sector. The official ratification ceremony took place just a few days ago.

#### Apialan Welcome

The delegates were welcomed by Hector Valenzuela Lineros, the president of the local entity, Apialan. About 100 delegates are attending the assembly, representing 48 associations of small industrialists from different parts of the country.

The opening session, held at the auditorium of the Universidad de Concepcion, Los Angeles campus, was attended by high-ranking Biobio authorities, headed by the governor, Cmdr Javier Gutierrez; Los Angeles Mayor Victor Perez; and the prefect of police, Cmdr Mario Narvaez.

The first National Assembly of Small Industry and Crafts will end today, Sunday, when the new national board, to have been elected last night, assumes office.

The working meetings of the various committees are taking place at the headquarters of the Association of Small Industry and Crafts in this city.

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## DAILY EXAMINES VIOLENT METHODS OF MARXIST GROUPS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Nov 82 p A 3

[Editorial: "Marxism and Armed Struggle"]

[Text] Marxists believe that armed struggle is a viable way to come to power, as international experience has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate. In Latin America the memory of what occurred in Nicaragua is still fresh, there, the Sandinists used that method to overthrow the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza and establish an oppressive regime, worse than the previous one, within the Cuban-Soviet orbit. Violence, which Lenin encouraged in his works, is the Marxists' preferred instrument for achieving power on this continent.

In El Salvador, for example, the revolutionary groups fighting the constitutional government are bent on a tenacious offensive in both rural and urban sectors. The occupation of small villages and the murder of individuals is a regular occurrence. The Marxist guerrilla war has been bleeding the country, which has seen serious disturbances, compelling the Armed Forces to use all the means at their disposal to combat it. However, at the same time, those who pretend to "liberate" El Salvador by blood and fire are formulating peace offers, so that the country's government itself has succeeded in appeasing the factions trying to overthrow it. Although the elections represented a categorical repudiation of violence, the guerrillas have not abandoned their objectives.

In Colombia, the head of the Armed Forces, Gen Gustavo Matamoros, has just said that the rebel groups do not wish to accept the amnesty decreed by President Belisario Betancur's government. The new administration offered amnesty to bring some unity to the nation, which has been shattered by guerrilla groups supported by Cuba and with a long history of armed violence. The achievement of a stable peace appears difficult for the military commander, since "the subversive groups show no sincere prospects of accepting the amnesty." In effect, they are not laying down their weapons, and they continue to operate in those places they believe to be propitious. The reestablishment of peaceful coexistence among the Colombian people is running into obstacles in the Marxist factions, who cannot resign themselves to submit to constitutional procedures.



A similar spirit of discord and retaliation is visible among the groups of exiled Marxists who hope to return to Chile. Statements by some of these individuals in several countries make plain the goals they expect to achieve here if they are allowed to return en masse. Several of these leaders have made no secret of their objectives lately, having stated that their first priority is to overthrow the military regime.

The attitudes that can be seen in three different countries are not surprising, because Marxist doctrine is unique and authorizes the double standard. Those who claim to want peace are promoting and will continue to promote the armed struggle against their adversaries.

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## FOREIGN RELATIONS VICE MINISTER MEETS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Nov 82 p A 1

[Text] The vice minister of foreign relations, Lt Gen Sergio Covarrubias, in a speech during the meeting of the Chilean-Chinese Mixed Commission being held in Beijing, condemned the expansionist and hegemonic practices which are threatening world peace.

He emphasized Chile's admiration for the firmness with which China is showing its opposition to the invasion of Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

It was also learned that the vice minister criticized Soviet imperialism and the use of force by the Soviet Union to attain its goals.

In addition he expressed his total confidence in the improvement of trade relations between Chile and China.

Zheng Tuobin, China's first vice minister of economic relations, who heads the Chinese delegation, said that there are many points of agreement in the foreign policies of the two nations.

The work sessions will last until 7 November, at which time the Chilean group will travel to Seoul, South Korea, for the first meeting of the Chilean-Korean Commission.

## Interviews

Vice Foreign Minister Covarrubias had a 50-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Huang Hua, and also met with Vice Foreign Minister Han Xu, among other government officials.

At his meeting with the Chilean official, Huang Hua expressed his hope that the results of the Mixed Commission might be positive, since in this way a better development of trade relations and a strengthening of the ties of friendship may be achieved.

Covarrubias emphasized the excellent state of bilateral relations and said that cooperation in all areas would continue, this being demonstrated by the importance being given by Chile to the meetings of the commission.

At the meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Han Xu, which lasted approximately 2 hours, both men analyzed the principal political subjects that concern nations in the international sphere.

Vice Foreign Minister Covarrubias spoke about the country's internal situation and about our international position.

He explained that Chile's foreign policy is characterized by realism. He mentioned the growing improvement of ties with our neighbors and with the American countries in general. He also touched on the government's concern about the situation in Central America, given Soviet intervention through Cuba.

He also emphasized the existing understanding between Chile and China and the interest in continuing to increase and develop the various areas of cooperation: economic, technological, scientific, trade, sports and cultural.

The Chinese vice foreign minister referred to the chief policies that guide his country's actions in the foreign policy area, its total independence and autonomy and its relations with all the nations of the world which respect the principles of peaceful coexistence, an absolute priority in relations with the Third World, as well as combating hegemonistic actions and safeguarding world peace.

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CSO: 3348/94

## HAVANA PRAISES NICARAGUAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1982

PA080328 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 Dec 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In 1982, the new Nicaragua has been the object of constant military, diplomatic and economic hounding by the United States which is bent on isolating and destroying the Sandinist revolution at any cost. In this sense, Washington has not stopped undertaking all kinds of maneuvers to achieve its objective which, in the next few weeks, could take the shape of large-scale attack by Honduran troops and former Somozist guardsmen against Sandino's homeland.

Nevertheless, the Sandinist Government has firmly replied to the attacks by Central American reactionaries and yankee imperialism. Nicaragua's membership in the UN Security Council, despite U.S. opposition, is unquestionably one of the greatest successes of Sandinist diplomacy in 1982. At a time when a military aggression--either by the United States, the Honduran army or the thousands of former Somozist guardsmen in Honduras--is considered imminent, Nicaragua's election as a member of the Security Council is valued by the Managua Government as a containment barrier against Washington's declared interventionist objectives.

Nicaraguan diplomacy has been particularly active in 1982. The high point of its peace offensive was the call for peaceful solutions made on 25 March at the Security Council by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the junta of the national reconstruction government. In contrast the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution which only asked that force or the threat of force not be used against the Central American peoples.

Days earlier the Nicaraguan revolutionary government had established a state of national emergency as a result of vast counterrevolutionary operations on its territory which included the demolition of an important bridge over the Negro River and considerable damage to another bridge near the town of Ocotal.

This year, the counterrevolutionary bands have gone from being disparate groups to become military units of up to 1,000 men. These units are equipped with modern military materiel and openly supported by the Honduran regime with the consent of the United States. That quantitative change in the anti-Nicaraguan groups led to an unprecedented increase in the military actions against the Sandinist revolution. Nicaragua's northern region has been especially affected

by these actions since a real undeclared war is being waged there. In that zone, the bandits come several kilometers into Nicaraguan territory to kill and kidnap defenseless inhabitants, to steal cattle and other domestic animals as well as to burn crops and destroy economic targets.

While the situation in the border region becomes increasingly more alarming, Washington has launched a systematic international campaign to discredit the Nicaraguan revolution and to blame it for the explosive situation in Central America. The so-called Central American democratic community and the forum for peace and democracy, from which Nicaragua was excluded, are included among those imperialist plans.

Neither has Washington abandoned in 1982 the economic and financial blockade against Nicaragua. Washington pressured U.S. banks and other financial institutions to deny loans to the Nicaraguan Government. The seriousness of the situation which the Sandinist Government now confronts as a result of this is caused by the fact that at the end of the month it must pay \$92 million to service the foreign debt and meet other obligations. Thus Nicaragua will have to forego the purchase of important raw materials necessary to its industrial development.

In the same way, the U.S. transnational standard fruit company suddenly stopped marketing Nicaraguan bananas, thereby following Washington's dictates to try to create a crisis situation in the Central American country. However, this maneuver was frustrated when the Sandinist Government signed an agreement with independent distributors.

Despite the imperialist maneuvers that the Nicaraguan Government has had to confront in 1982, Nicaragua's sugar production has been important, the second largest in its history. Nicaragua expects to harvest 63,536 tons of coffee, its main export. To this is added the unyielding will of the people to increase production without neglecting defense, sure that the enemy shall not pass.

CSO: 3248/335



## VEIGA READS CTC NATIONAL COUNCIL MAIN REPORT

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 25 Oct 82 pp 2-4

[Text of the main report read by Comrade Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the party's Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), at the 45th Meeting of the National Council of the CTC in Ernst Thaelmann Hall on Wednesday 10 October 1982, the 24th year of the revolution]

[Text] Comrades:

We will begin the work of the 45th Meeting of the National Council by reporting on several of the most important tasks accomplished during the first half of this year and indicating, in each case, the aspects that in our judgment ought to be accorded special attention in the coming months.

Our range of activities is very broad and diverse. As usual, it is not our intention to cover in this report everything we do. That would make it too long. We hope that you once again understand this.

So without further introduction, here is the report:

#### I. Economic Tasks

##### a) Production and Emulation

In the first half of the year we achieved the goals set for our national emulation as a salute to the 4th Congress of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] and to the 20th anniversary of the Cuban youth movement. Close to 18,000 emulation units (81 percent of the total) fulfilled their collective pledges, and more than 2.2 million workers (90 percent of the total) fulfilled their individual pledges.

As scheduled, in April each province submitted its emulation goals for the year to the party leadership. Most of the work centers began registering workers in the Labor Honor Roll that was established by our organization and the UJC.

These emulation results square fully with the results of economic-social activity: the goal of the commercial production plan was exceeded by 1.2 percent; we achieved one of the largest sugar cane harvests in our history; the school year was successful; gains were made in the field of health care; productivity was up; all sectors used less fuel than the year before; progress was made in work time utilization and in the observance of work discipline, and the frequency and seriousness of accidents declined, albeit slightly.

We would emphasize that these things were accomplished at a time when the international situation has been characterized by the well-known deep crisis besetting the capitalist world and by the intensification of imperialist aggression, all of which, as we know, has an adverse impact on our country. We must also point out that these accomplishments were posted at a time when we have had to struggle tenaciously to offset the impact of the unprecedented cyclones and rains that lashed the western part of the country and under circumstances in which we had to earmark many human and material resources for reinforcing our military hardware and personnel to avoid being taken by surprise by any wily imperialist aggression. Our construction workers displayed extraordinary selflessness and heroism in these activities.

It will not be easy to maintain during the rest of the year the performance levels noted for the first half. This will demand great efforts from all workers and, as we might suppose, from all their unions as well.

We are familiar with the problems caused by low prices for sugar and other export goods; by the imperialist pressures to restrict our use of credit; by high interest rates on money markets; by the high price tags of imported goods; by market restrictions and other factors.

There are difficulties and there will be difficulties this year and in the years to come. We will be up against limitations in securing raw materials, inputs and spare parts of nonsocialist origin. This will force us to develop our creativity, to make a supreme effort in conservation and, in general, to marshal all of our strengths to achieve the highest possible economic efficiency. There is no other way. This is a challenge for all of us.

As a result of this situation, some activities will see reduced work hours and even fewer workdays, as Comrade Fidel reported this past 26 July. We have every intention of seeing to it that this situation does as little harm as possible to worker income. In other words, workers will be able to put in maximum time in the great majority of activities, but there will be others in which they cannot.

There is convincing evidence that we can conserve a great deal. We are clearly poor people with the outlook of wealthy people; we are wasteful. At the 43rd Meeting of the Council we proposed a 10 percent

cut in materials, raw materials and fuel during the present year. According to our data, the savings in these areas during the first half total 198 million pesos. Some 100,000 tons of fuel were saved in the sugar industry, and more than 15,000 in the chemical, mining and energy industries, to cite just a few examples.

If we continue to mobilize the workers and if we focus the joint efforts of technicians and other specialists, not only will we save much more but we will also see to it that many raw materials and inputs that we today import from the capitalist area can be replaced by others from the socialist area.

We must strive to get the most out of our available resources and try to offset our resource shortage through efficiency. As Fidel has said: "We have to continue working to boost efficiency in our economy even further; we simply have to do more with less."

There is still little awareness in some sectors of spare parts-related activities, and when we talk about spare parts, we are not thinking just about their production but also their salvaging, in which very little progress has been made.

Spare parts-related activities are important. If we pursue them firmly, we can produce an unbelievable amount and variety of them domestically, and imports of more than a few of them could well shrink. We have, in fact, been working on this. The production of spare parts has increased steadily, and although their salvaging is not yet at an advanced stage, a start has been made. Both of these activities must be vigorously promoted in all sectors. We must bear in mind that the lack of spare parts has clearly adverse effects on agriculture, construction, transportation and other areas. Our unions must promote an impressive, combative and creative mobilization of their workers and technicians with a view towards satisfactorily performing this task. We must see to it that each organization works out an annual spare parts production and salvaging plan.

Much can also be done in the struggle to improve the quality of our production.

Many products are defective because of operational shortcomings, inadequate skills, lack of quality control and of technological demands and for other, subjective reasons. We must hammer away vigorously at these problems.

We could also make an extraordinary contribution to our development by improving quality in the services sector: in shops and restaurants, education, health care, transportation, communications, the press, radio and television, culture and recreation. There is a great deal of potential in this sector for enhancing quality and developing ourselves further. We discussed this issue in greater detail at the council's previous meeting.

We must promote marginal production and everything that can be manufactured from scraps, cuttings and idle inventories, both for the use of the populace and as a way of supporting other industries, particularly local ones.

Innovators and efficiency experts can make an extraordinary contribution to the struggle that we must wage in conserving, producing and salvaging spare parts and in boosting quality and efficiency in general.

We already have more than 4,000 Innovators and Efficiency Experts Committees with close to 50,000 members. This is a powerful force that we must make consistent use of.

During the first half of the year around 3,600 innovations and efficiency enhancements were developed, saving the country about 80 million pesos. We must channel the ANIR's [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts] efforts towards solving the problems we face at the moment. We must spur on its initiatives and see to it that management becomes aware of the need to properly draw up area plans.

"Innovators and Efficiency Experts Week" was held throughout the country from 1 to 7 October this year. During the first few months of 1984 we will stage a major exposition highlighting the best efforts of 1983. The exposition will have to be preceded by meetings to select award-winning projects by both province and sector and by a series of initiatives that we should support warmly.

If socialist emulation is creatively adapted and promoted much more strongly, it could become an invaluable aid in accomplishing our present economic tasks. There are no restrictions on emulation where full-capacity work is possible, but neither should we overlook it even where the aforementioned problems dictate a reduction in work hours or workdays.

We have heard people say: If we have a production plan that represents just 50 or 60 percent of an establishment's or an enterprise's production capacity and, therefore, fulfilling it requires no great effort, what sense is there in organizing an emulation? Such thinking is quite mistaken.

The results of an emulation must not be gauged solely in physical terms; in the situation in which we find ourselves at present, they must also be gauged in economic terms. This means that it is not just "How much are we producing?" but also "At what cost and with what kind of quality?" When a work center facing obstacles in reaching its output goals does so anyway through emulation, while achieving high quality and substantial savings in raw materials and inputs, then emulation has a very specific purpose closely linked to the goals we have now set for ourselves. There will also be work centers that will not find it too difficult to meet their goal in terms of physical units, but if they do so with quality work and substantial savings of available resources, then this

is a major accomplishment, and in the case of these work places it is these two indicators that we must underscore most strongly.

In recent months we have been considering the need to enhance emulative efforts. Emulation is regarded as having mainly to do with production sectors. This is fine; this is not a shortcoming. Yet by limiting it mainly to these sectors, we are hampering its use by the unions that handle the services sector. This is a flaw. We get the impression, with regard to these unions, that emulation is like a straightjacket and cannot be geared to their particular features. We have called on the unions in this sector to tailor emulation to their own circumstances. In response to our call, the Shop, Hotel and Restaurant Union is promoting the "Model Units" movement; the Health Care Union is gaining experience through the "Emulation for Efficient Services"; the Culture Union is pushing a number of measures, and the Unions of Education, Science and Sports and the Public Administration Union have drawn up their respective draft bylaws to be put into effect as soon as possible.

We must expand the struggle to break with everything that entails an improper approach to our emulation efforts.

Moreover, we must examine all the emulative initiatives that we see prospering and taking hold in production sectors. We must study the experiences gained from the "Model Dairy Farms" movement in agriculture, as well as from the other small-scale emulations successfully undertaken in this sector. We must answer this question: Why has the "Red Hot" [Rojo Vivo] emulation at the ports managed to keep going for so long, encouraging the efforts and initiative of workers there? It would be useful to ascertain the reasons why the special emulations pursued by the Construction Union have been successful. In short, we have to assimilate the good, the positive, and extend it creatively.

We would find it advantageous to learn from the valuable experience of the Chemical, Mining and Energy Union in its efforts to increase fuel conservation. We should look into the initiatives that the Metallurgical Union is pursuing in its special emulation to produce and salvage spare parts. It would be a good idea for all sectors to start their own "outstanding workers" movement, which has begun to take shape and expand in the Transportation and Light Industry Unions.

Let us consolidate the impressive emulation movement that almost all unions are pursuing to become the site of "Workers Day." Let us study the experiences gained in certain territories: the emulation initiatives and the accomplishments in Granma to host the ceremonies on 26 July and the extraordinary emulation movement under way in Santiago to become the worthy host of the ceremonies commemorating the 30th anniversary of the glorious "Assault on the Moncada Barracks."

We must once and for all bring about emulations among work centers. Why do emulations arouse the interest and enthusiasm of workers in some centers and in others not? We must declare war on low-quality



work and on pro-forma checkups. We must restore the solemnity of ceremonies at which emulation awards are handed out, in particular the Heroes of the Moncada Banner. We must quickly correct the paradoxical situation that arises when the emulation units are selected in certain unions at the enterprise or budgeted-unit level and the Heroes of the Moncada Banner is thus awarded at this level, because this means that there are major union sections in which the banner is not awarded while there are other, less important ones in which it is. We have to make a wholesale revision of our emulation efforts. We must aspire to qualitatively higher levels in this activity.

#### b) The Sugar Harvest

The recent harvest was one of the largest in our history. This was how Fidel described it in his historic speech this past 26 July, in which he also announced that 8,207,178 metric tons of sugar, base 96, were produced. On that occasion he cited telling figures to illustrate how this production volume was accompanied and supported by major strides in overall efficiency. The sustained and self-sacrificing efforts of our workers played a decisive role in these accomplishments.

During the recent sugar harvest the productivity of workers doing manual and mechanized cutting increased; the Seven-Figure Movement [Movimiento Millionario] continued its upward trend; attention to personnel was substantially improved; a number of wage problems that had long been having an adverse impact were resolved, and the amount, variety and quality of Special Emulation awards improved. Half of the cost of 1,014 overseas trips was subsidized for our sugar harvest workers, and to this we must add 264 that were awarded free of cost on the initiative of our commander in chief.

It is a source of great pleasure to point out that the City of Havana Province declared all of its cane-cutter brigades in the two-million club, while the provinces of Havana and Ciego de Avila saw theirs join the one-million club. Countless workers achieved the status of Heroes and Outstanding Workers during the harvest.

The on-schedule completion of the harvest enabled the tasks relating to the cleaning of the cane to be undertaken successfully. Enormous efforts were put forth. The shortage of herbicide was offset by the overwhelming revolutionary response of the workers and our entire people.

Because of the extent to which the sugar production goal was achieved, the expenditures prompted by the Wage Reform in sugar harvest activities were self-financed both in national currency and from foreign exchange earnings.

Far from discouraging our sugar production efforts, the limitations imposed on us by low sugar prices inevitably cause us to multiply them. Hence, it is very important to make the next harvest highly efficient.

Meticulous, high-quality work is being done to repair our sugar mills, especially the ones that performed poorly during the recent harvest. Such work is also under way on cane farming equipment and machinery. We have not overlooked the need to select, evaluate and train the workers that are needed for the harvest industry and farm equipment. The stage is being set for an ongoing rise in attention to personnel, and various measures that many of you are familiar with are being taken in this regard. We are already looking into several foreseeable situations that require certain wage solutions. New alternatives are being looked at to continue expanding and enhancing the incentives offered in the Special Sugar Harvest Emulation. Feverish work is under way in every detail, and farther ahead of schedule than ever this time.

Special attention has been accorded to the selection and organization of the cane-cutting brigades, consisting of both regular and volunteer members. The results of the work so far have been highly satisfactory. All provinces have already selected their volunteers from among their most skillful and productive workers. This policy, together with the increase in mechanization, will enable us to reap the next harvest with thousands of workers less than in the recent one.

Our central organization's rallying cry that all provinces should become "millionaires" today looks as if it will become a marvelous reality. What might have seemed like a pipe dream years ago now looms before us as potentially one of the most important production-related accomplishments in the history of the Cuban labor movement.

As revolutionary union members, we have pledged to achieve this great goal. We are confident that we will be able to achieve it with honor!

All of the brigades in the City of Havana Province are aiming at the three-million figure, and the brigades in Havana and Ciego de Avila provinces are aiming at the two-million level. The strong convictions with which these provinces are preparing to accomplish this great feat give us great encouragement and confidence about their triumph.

One of the goals that we have set for ourselves in the next harvest is to strengthen the Seven-Figure Movement among the combine platoons. We will give priority to the organization of the emulation in this activity and we will earmark additional items to provide further incentives for the labor of the operators, mechanics, apprentices, platoon chiefs and all support personnel. Along with an increase in mechanization, we should aim at substantial boosts in the productivity of this type of cutting.

Efforts are already under way to make the next harvest's industrial emulation more flexible, simpler and devoid of unnecessary complications. The goal of the Sugar Union is to make it more attractive and understandable to the workers.

We have called on the Sugar Union and we now extend the call to the CTC in the provinces, to promote the policy of internal consumption in the cane enterprises as strongly as necessary. This will be instrumental in enhancing the diet of workers.

We must remember that the efforts to guarantee cutting and milling every day must be combined with efforts to keep the cane clean and growing, to make maximum use of the resources earmarked for irrigation and to carry out the planting programs with the required quality.

Everyone has become imbued with an extraordinary work spirit and an enormous desire to achieve high-level efficiency in the harvest. This is the only thing that can mitigate potential drops in estimates as a result of the unprecedented drought that we have suffered in recent months, which, as we know, are the decisive months for good cane yields.

Never before have we observed such an atmosphere of unity and brotherly cooperation between union and MINAZ [Sugar Industry Ministry] cadres in the common struggle to tackle and overcome difficulties.

Our union goals for the upcoming sugar harvest have been warmly received by all branches of the party and have had the encouragement and effective, concrete support of the comrades who make up the Coordination and Support Team of our commander in chief.

We will perform the tasks of the upcoming harvest with the courage and determination with which we have always tackled difficulties in recent years, convinced that the entire nation will take part in this great production battle while making efficiency and a demanding approach the basic rallying cry for achieving victory.

It is our unavoidable duty to bolster our union's contributions to the struggle for an increase in cane yields. The "Special Emulation for High Yields in Cane Farming" is already under way, with the participation of all workers. We will soon begin naming "Vanguard" and "Candidate Vanguard" districts. We must see to it that this emulation takes hold among the workers and helps them to make quantifiable, tangible achievements. This is something that we cannot postpone.

#### c) Volunteer Work

The workers and their unions continued to make volunteer work contributions during the first half of the year. Their efforts went towards various economic and social goals, as well as towards the preparations for the country's defense. They helped to make up for delays in economic plans; they worked in mobilizations for the coffee, tobacco and citrus harvests; in the planting and growing of cane; on the urgent tasks in the port-transport-domestic economy chain; in harvesting tubers and vegetables and in many other tasks. A major portion of the volunteer work was related to two important ideological events: the "Bay of Pigs Celebration" and the "May Day Moncada Celebration."

We cannot fail to mention the tens of thousands of volunteer work hours that workers in the country's westernmost provinces put in to mitigate the damage caused by Hurricane Albert. They were unstinting in their self-sacrifice, courage and heroic efforts.

More than 36 million volunteer work hours were put in during the first half of the year. This represents around 12 million pesos. Part of the money was donated to help finance the Territorial Militia Troops.

We have scheduled the seventh Red Sunday in our history for this coming 7 November to salute the 65th anniversary of the glorious October Socialist Revolution and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

We have to incorporate close to two million workers into this traditional mobilization. It must be prepared well ahead of time so that it yields good production results. This great session of volunteer work must aim at making up for delays, exceeding goals, spurring major economic and social projects, supporting farming and forestry tasks, helping with the loading, unloading and removal of merchandise at ports and warehouses and promoting campaigns to clean up, organize and beautify work centers and surrounding areas. The economic savings that result from these efforts will be donated to help finance the Territorial Militia Troops.

#### d) The Production and Services Assemblies

The number of production and services assemblies increased during the first half. It is incomprehensible that there are still unions and provinces whose average number of assemblies is less than it ought to be.

We have spoken a great deal about the need to enhance the quality of these assemblies, and of course we will have to continue doing so and, above all, take action, until this situation is resolved. The responses that organizations are providing to the problems posed to them are still unsatisfactory. Their responses must be more explicit and prompt.

We cannot deny that the content of these assemblies has improved but we have to recognize that what has been achieved is still inadequate. Converting the Assemblies of Representatives into Permanent Assemblies could help in this regard. What do we mean by this? We mean that the people whom the workers choose to represent them at these assemblies would be given a mandate of a year or more. This would enable these comrades to enjoy some continuity, to acquire some seasoning, to gain experience and to achieve greater involvement that would be instrumental in making these assemblies more meaningful. This seems to be a necessary move, as we can see from the experience of unions in the socialist countries. If you agree with this proposal, we can commission the CTC National Committee to draw up the regulations for its application as of next year.



e) The Economic Management and Planning System

We continue to support the implementation of the Economic Management and Planning System.

As was pointed out in the conclusions of the recent National Plenary Checkup Meeting on this effort: "The system has been implemented during adverse economic times, and therefore there have been both subjective and objective stumbling blocks. At the same time, however, its application has helped us to offset and mitigate the impact of the shortage of material and financial resources, and it ought to be an increasingly effective tool in this regard."

The schools that have been organized to this end have worked to train our cadres, although we are forced to acknowledge that we have not done everything that we could have and should be doing in this regard. Many cadres who need to attend these schools have not, particularly some economic section chiefs. This situation must not continue.

Last year, enterprises established economic incentive funds totaling 53 million pesos. Of the 430 enterprises authorized to establish them, 308 did so. This year 677 enterprises have authorization to set up funds.

Our union movement must reaffirm the policy that it has pursued so far, in other words, that only enterprises that really perform efficiently can set up incentive funds, with performance gauged in accordance with the indicators that have been developed. All workers must understand this. Material rewards cannot be handed out in a socialist society unless concrete results are achieved. We must make it quite clear that the interest of society takes precedence over the interest of a group.

Workers who were mobilized in economic or military activities did not used to receive rewards in their enterprises for the time that they were away from work. This was a source of annoyance. It has now become official that workers who have been away from the enterprises due to mobilizations or other fully justified reasons will receive rewards out of the funds earmarked for incentives in socialist or any other emulation.

We realize that there have been problems in spending funds for socio-cultural activities and housing construction. Enterprises have accumulated more than 19 million pesos that cannot be invested due to the lack of material resources. We are looking into this situation and trying to resolve it as best we can.

Considering the uncertainties inherent in the aforementioned economic difficulties, JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board] was forced to draw up several alternative Control Figures for the 1983 plan. This restricted the time periods for its formulation and discussion.



In view of the tight deadlines and given the need to know the views of the various planning levels before drafting the Proposal for Guideline Figures, this time, as we know, the plan was discussed only at the Assemblies of Representatives in production enterprises.

#### f) Work Organization and Wages

Close to 98 percent of the country's workers enjoy the benefits of the General Wage Reform. Port workers, some civil aviation technicians and other isolated cases are still not covered. Appropriate ways to apply the reform are being looked into in all these instances.

If we compare the economic growth over the past 2 years with our additional wage outlays, we see that, in general, the workers have lived up to the provisions of the reform. The reform has been a constructive influence. It has prompted sharp rises in production and productivity, which have offset the expenditures it has led to. We should mention that the increases in commercial output in recent years have been due mainly to a rise in productivity.

Worker earnings continued to rise during the first half. The average wage was 179 pesos, up 6.4 percent over the same date last year.

There have been problems in applying the reform to self-trained technicians. On the one hand, the requests to speed up the "wage transition" that would exempt older technicians from degree requirements have not been processed promptly enough; on the other, the technicians who have not fulfilled degree requirements have not been given the opportunity to study. Resolving this problem as quickly as possible should be a priority item on the work agenda of the CTC and the unions.

There have been other shortcomings and failings that we must eradicate to consolidate the implementation of the reform. The current levels of efficiency at some enterprises are behind schedule in implementing the reform, and the monitoring and systematic assessment of performance are still inadequate.

The General Wage Reform has been a very valuable tool in promoting the tasks of Work Organization and Wages.

The number of workers who can be assigned quotas and were assigned quotas continued to increase in the first half; they now number 1,165,900, or 93 percent. Likewise, the number of workers operating under quotas rose to 1.1 million, or 94 percent.

Progress has been made in setting quotas for work. Continued gains will mean enhanced quota monitoring, higher quality and more skilled quota-setters. Quotas must be set more scientifically, so as to preclude the constant revisions that tend to discourage worker production efforts.

The State Committee for Labor and Social Security recently enacted Resolution 1287, superseding Resolution 236. It establishes new guidelines for updating quotas. This satisfies a longstanding demand by workers doing manual jobs and running hand-operated machines. The unions and provinces must see to it that our union sections are familiar with this resolution and comply with it.

During the first half of the year 92,297 workers joined the pay based on performance system, pushing the total number to 1,350,000. Due to the economic difficulties confronting the country, it seems unlikely that we will be able to attain the ambitious figure of 1.5 million workers that we hoped to reach this year. Nevertheless, a great many workers are already under this pay system.

We must consolidate the encouraging progress we have made in implementing the pay based on performance system. We must enhance the quality of this work and, above all, we must be more aggressive in converting the system we currently employ to direct piecework, especially in the industrial sector. This should be our fundamental objective in the months to come.

Pay based on performance has had a decisive influence in our productivity successes and in the pursuit of greater economic efficiency, and it has found its own specific varieties of application in the different sectors and branches of the economy. The Farm, Forestry and Sugar unions have given an enormous push to the pay per finished field system, which was later refined by linking workers to a specific area; these unions are currently setting up Integrated Brigades as a superior form of organizing farm work. The Construction Union has achieved tangible results by organizing the work force into crews.

The pay based on performance system has been enriched by the noteworthy efforts to expand bonus payments and update quotas.

We made significant progress in paying out bonuses in 1980 and 1981. During the first 6 months of this year, however, we made little progress. Slightly more than 800,000 of our workers are eligible for bonuses, and the goal we have set for ourselves this year is 1 million. We must make the bonus system more widespread.

Where the bonus system has been consistently employed, it has been a major incentive in boosting productivity, work quality and conservation.

All unions must renew their efforts to increase the number of workers eligible for bonuses and, given our current economic situation, channel these workers' efforts into the battle for quality and conservation while stimulating export-oriented output.

The work places that award bonuses must review their current systems so that they insure increases in efficiency commensurate with the wage bonuses paid out.

The use of bonuses, especially to boost conservation, will of course mean that our unions will have to wage a major campaign to refine and steadily increase consumption quotas at all work centers.

This year we have to review 381,310 work quotas. During the first 6 months 246,486 were looked at. We can meet our goal this year without too much trouble. We should add that this time we learned from previous negative experiences. This work was not done indiscriminately and without preparation, and this prevented unnecessary tensions from developing.

We can readily see from all of the above that we scored outstanding successes in the entire process of organizing work and wages. We must keep up the good work. We have to prevent the scheduled decline in work and wage indicators in many enterprises, due to the difficult economic situation facing the country, from ruining the extraordinary efforts exerted in recent years. In light of the situation confronting our country, we must pay even greater attention to work and wage organization and tailor it to our actual conditions, not relegate it to the background. Under no circumstances can we take even one step backwards in this activity. We must move ever forward!

## II. Occupational Health and Safety

Even though the frequency and seriousness of accidents decreased during the period in question, the situation is still alarming. There were 32,214 work-related accidents during the first half of the year, 30,862 minor, 1,209 serious and 148 fatal.

Some 55 million pesos were earmarked this year to prevent occupational accidents and illnesses. As of 30 June, 22.5 million, 41 percent, had been spent; 81,265 precautionary measures, 42 percent of the 193,611 planned for the year, have been taken.

There has been a marked rise in the frequency and seriousness of accidents in the sugar industry, in particular, fatal accidents, which totaled 49 during the first half, accounting for 35 percent of the total. Almost two sugar workers a week died. The analyses of fatal accidents in the sugar industry conducted by our Health and Safety Department show that the great majority of them were due to subjective factors that can be corrected. Among them we could cite the inadequate training of workers, an insufficiently demanding attitude on the part of managers directly involved in production, and other instances of indiscipline.

Our council hopes that the Sugar Union will adopt the necessary measures to rectify this critical situation.

The available finances and material resources do not meet our needs. This is a hard fact, just as it is a fact, which we must all grasp, that most work accidents are due to someone's irresponsibility, to someone's lack of discipline, to someone's undemanding attitude, to

someone's laziness and insensitivity, that they are due, in a word, to human shortcomings, to human attitudes, to human actions.

On this occasion we would like to renew our appeal for additional efforts in the area of occupational health and safety. We have to be more combative in performing this task.

We must strongly oppose the individuals who idealistically seek to resolve all problems relating to safe and healthy work conditions by proposing investments or requesting funds that we cannot afford and who do not make the slightest effort to resolve or mitigate them by using the resources that have been earmarked for their enterprises or budgeted units.

We must see to it that occupational health and safety is viewed as an essential component of production, not as an independent, secondary aspect. This will help take care of many problems.

We must prevent work accidents from continuing to take their toll of valuable lives. Loss of life is, of course, the most dramatic aspect of this phenomenon, which also includes hundreds of people with maimed arms and legs, individuals who are partially or totally disabled and persons suffering from other disabling injuries.

### III. Tasks Involving Labor and Social Matters

During the first half of the year we conducted a mass union inspection in relation with the Registry of Wages and Time of Service in Social Security and the Direct Hiring of the Work Force. Close to 4,700 enterprises and budgeted units and more than 2½ million files were checked out.

Close to 250,000 violations were uncovered in direct hiring, 60 percent fewer than in the inspection we conducted last year. Although we have to struggle tirelessly to eliminate these infractions, the inspection showed that an effort has been made to abolish them. The System of Direct Hiring of the Work Force is moving ahead on schedule.

The inspection conducted in the Registry of Wages and Time of Service uncovered more than 2.25 million violations, up 10 percent over last year's inspection. In spite of the program of measures that was put into effect, these violations have persisted.

We must immediately proceed to report to the Public Prosecutor's Office [Fiscalia] all of the enterprise managements that have committed these infractions again.

In November and December of this year we will conduct an inspection of the times of service listed in work files. This is very important in establishing the documentary basis for entitlement to the benefits of the Social Security Law. During these months we will also check on the work merits and demerits listed in worker files.

It is our impression that Decree-Law No 32 has diminished the tendency to indiscriminately take the most radical steps, in other words, temporary or permanent removal from a job or post. But except for public or private warnings, the rest of the disciplinary measures contained in this decree are not being sufficiently employed. There are obviously still instances of indiscipline that management condones by not being demanding enough or not enforcing the law consistently.

Decree-Law 36 is not being enforced strongly enough either. In very few instances is this law applied to managements that are overly or insufficiently demanding about work discipline or that repeatedly violate the established labor and social regulations.

Regardless of the shortcomings that we can point out in the enforcement of Decree-Laws 32 and 36, experience has shown that both are proper laws that have helped to strengthen labor discipline in the country.

The establishment of Internal Disciplinary Regulations shows that progress has been made in comparison to the situation reflected at recent meetings of the council. Some 2,725 regulations are now on the books. This does not mean that we still do not have a long way to go. There are still 2,068 enterprises and budgeted units that have yet to put this major tool for labor discipline into effect. The Air Force, the Merchant Marine, Television, the National Bank of Cuba and Arbitration have not yet submitted their regulations to the State Committee for Labor and Social Security for its approval.

We are doing poorly as far as signing labor union contracts is concerned... They are not being signed in all places; in others the agreements are vague and inadequate, and in general checkups are inadequate and efforts are not being made to insure their enforcement. We must take every step that the circumstances require to reverse this situation next year.

We continue to pay greater attention to the Labor Councils. The CTC Secretariat recently approved the instructions that will be put into effect during the second half of the year for the replacement or reelection of their members; it adapted these instructions to current conditions, which, as the Council decided at its previous meeting, suggest that the number of members decrease somewhat, in view of their current functions.

The assembly process was carried out over the previous 6 months to select the candidates for lay judges at all levels; 5,466 were selected, representing 71 percent of the total elected. We are currently drafting the definitive criteria for the nomination of judges.

Seminars were held using the second volume of the Labor Legislation compendium. They were attended by 285,206 labor leaders and members of the Labor Councils. We are working on a third volume that will be used for the seminars that will be taught during the first half of next year.



In accordance with the president of the National People's Assembly, a discussion of the Labor Code has been included in the 5-Year Legislative Agenda. A committee and various task forces have been set up, comprising around 40 labor leaders who are working on the first draft that will be submitted to the party and the government. We hope that this document will be debated during the preparations for the 15th Congress of the CTC.

During the past 6 months we pursued certain activities aimed at arresting several negative trends that are at variance with the prevailing standards in our society and that have nothing to do with socialism or our principles.

With specific regard to the deviations detected in relation to the so-called "contracts," we drafted a document warning about this situation and advising our members to energetically combat this irregularity.

This document was discussed with all of the country's labor organizations and groups.

Furthermore, the National Union of Shop, Hotel and Restaurant Workers has done wideranging work with the masses, denouncing theft, corruption and other manifestations of illicit enrichment in this sector. At present it is working with the appropriate administrative bodies to come up with in-depth solutions to these problems.

Work clothes and footwear continue to be a most touchy issue. We have reassessed the approach of distributing them based on the order of priority sectors. We have decided to give priority to job posts on the basis of their greater consumption. In future distributions, each manual worker in the country will be guaranteed a change of clothes and a pair of shoes; the remaining items will be distributed to jobs posts to be determined by the management in consultation with the unions. In this way we will be employing a fairer procedure in line with existing supplies.

At the time of the council's previous meeting, 4,122 worker mess halls had established the optional consumption system. By the middle of this year, the system was in place in 5,339, serving 548,051 workers. This year's plan is to incorporate as many of them as fulfill the requirements. We have selected 3,012 mess halls for improved resource allocation. All agree that this measure has contributed to appreciable improvements in this sphere.

The percentage of women in the nation's work force has risen steadily to more than 34 percent. This trend has been furthered by a specific policy to this end.

In addition to washing machines and refrigerators, electric fans are now being distributed under the CTC-MINCIN [Domestic Trade Ministry] plan. This has been a constant demand from our workers, in light of the serious difficulties they face in purchasing them in stores. There were delays in delivering washing machines in some provinces because MINCIN was having problems finding places for them.

#### IV. Educational, Cultural, Athletic and Recreational Tasks

Some 716,800 workers have enrolled in cultural and technical self-improvement courses during the first 6 months of the year, around 80,000 more than during the same period last year.

The Fourth Census of Worker School Enrollment was conducted during this period. This was an enormous effort. Its findings are of decisive importance in organizing our educational efforts. This census reflected our victorious battle for the sixth grade, confirming that 93 percent of the country's workers have achieved this level of schooling.

##### a) The Battle for the Ninth Grade

We recently posted the highest enrollment in our history in Farm Worker Secondary School courses. Some 323,500 workers responded to our appeal. If we include the 120,000 who have already graduated, the total comes to 443,356 workers.

What do these figures mean?

They mean that we have made much progress but also that we have to put more effort into incorporating, retaining and promoting our worker students so that we can achieve the goal of 700,000 ninth grade graduates that we pledged to reach by 1985.

We would like to call attention to the imperative need to incorporate all union and administrative leaders who do not have a ninth grade education. The absence of many of them from our classrooms is the main cause of the poor signup results in many work centers.

What are the most important tasks facing us at the moment in our battle for the ninth grade?

First, to guarantee the attendance, retention and promotion of all registered students. We will have accomplished nothing with the highest enrollment in our history if many people drop out in the months ahead; and second, to bring into the review classrooms most of the workers who did not join during this period, so that they can join during the Volunteer Rally in December.

By the end of the year we should be at around 90 percent of the nationwide goal, counting graduates and those attending class. This is the objective towards which we should be working.

##### b) Culture

We successfully completed the preparatory stage for the Ninth Amateur Festival. More than 75,000 workers took part. Amateur groups have

increased in number all over the country. In spite of the modest gains in cultural efforts, difficulties in technical guidance persist; material resources are in short supply, and in general this work has not been accorded a high enough priority.

#### c) Athletics

Our efforts in athletics are on the rise.

We should underscore the efforts put forth by the Sugar Union in organizing and promoting the Sugar League, as well as the outstanding work done by the unions in support of the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games, including the magnificent reception accorded the members of the Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization at our union headquarters.

The preparations for the Sixth Worker Athletic Games are encountering some difficulties. They must be taken care of so that the Sixth Games will be the largest and most enthusiastic in history.

#### d) Recreation

We have 60 Worker Social Clubs in 5 provinces, and there are wideranging prospects for expanding them in the coming year. We have contacted JUCEPLAN about its allocating the minimum resources that these facilities require.

With regard to tourism abroad, we stated at the previous meeting of the council: "We should immediately set about trying to boost this figure by providing those who wish to travel transportation price tags and payment terms that they can afford, as well as free trips for the top workers in emulations. We live in a society of workers, and the workers are the ones who should enjoy overseas travel."

These goals have been met. During these 6 months, 2,411 travel facilities were distributed among all unions. Aside from enjoying reduced prices, 1,675 workers got 20, 40 or 60 percent discounts on the overall cost, depending on their wage level. The 736 remaining trips were given away free of charge to outstanding workers. In addition, the interest rate on the bank loans granted in all these cases was cut from 7.5 to 5 percent.

To the above figures we should add the trips earmarked for the sugar harvest workers, which we mentioned previously. In all, we have 3,689 trips available this year, 100 of them totally free of charge.

Another benefit we secured was the setting up of two additional stores, one in Camaguey and the other in Santiago, to provide clothing and footwear for workers who travel. They no longer have to come to the capital from the interior to do their shopping.

The CTC-INTUR [National Tourist Institute] Plan reached 46 percent of its goal. This is a better showing than in the previous period. Practically all spaces were filled during the peak months of July, August and Septemebr.

There are still problems with this plan; we have analyzed them previously, and they have to do with shortcomings in the provision of this service by INTUR and the Transportation Ministry. The transportation that vacationers ride on needs to be maintained, overhauled and repaired. Organizational factors are also involved, as well as poor service, unhygienic facilities and nonobservance of transportation timetables.

This year we were able to offer our best workers 2,704 additional vacation opportunities. The method of apportioning them was also considerably improved over the previous period. Instead of vouchers, cards were distributed for specific spots. This plan included 10 percent of the finest accomodations in Varadero, which the unions' vanguard workers were able to enjoy.

#### V. Organizational and Financial Tasks

During these 6 months we have continued our struggle to bolster organizational work. At present, 98.8 percent of the country's workers belong to unions. We could well be at 99 percent by the end of the year. We know of no other country with such a high membership level.

There have been gains in carrying out the plan for regular meetings in intermediate bodies and rank-and-file organizations. We must continue to prevail upon the latter to improve the content of their meetings. The meetings of the steering committees of union sections are an indispensable means of guaranteeing of organization's activities, but they are not an end in themselves. Quality meetings is the supreme goal towards which we should all be constantly working.

In general, in deciding on promotions we now take into account the candidates' job and union and their branch or sector. The stability of our cadres has gradually improved. There have been improvements in rounding out our payrolls. More earnest work is being done in designating job positions. In a word, progress, albeit modest, is noticeable in many facets of the policy of selecting, placing, promoting and being responsive to our personnel.

We must emphasize that we have not yet succeeded in preventing some comrades who have been elected by CTC committees and by the unions from having other comrades stand in for them at the regular meetings of these bodies. We must take care of this once and for all.

During the first 6 months of the year we evaluated the secretariats of five National Unions. In spite of the efforts that have been made, there are still signs of a mechanistic, superficial approach here. It

is not pointless to repeat that we should not wait for evaluation time to tell comrades about the shortcomings that we feel they ought to eliminate. The instances in which this has been done reveals that the healthy practice of systematic criticism and self-criticism has been notable for its absence.

We now have 1 union activist for every 10 members. This is a positive development, though we should note that the most important thing is to see to it that they all take action and do specific, simple work. Only when this happens will we be able to evaluate these efforts positively.

Last February we held the half-year union assemblies, in line with the changes introduced at the council's 42nd Meeting. Everyone says that this time the assemblies were better organized and of higher quality; yet some assemblies were not scheduled and, therefore, not held, while others did not comply with pertinent regulations.

We must continue working hard to see to it that all these assemblies get held and that their agendas are consistent with our aspirations.

During the first 6 months of the year we more than fulfilled our plan of contacts with the rank-and-file. There were 209,300 visits to work centers, close to 10 times as many as during the previous 6 months. All unions and provinces exceeded their plans. The results of these efforts have had a favorable impact on the performance of our tasks, and in view of their importance, we must continue striving to consolidate them.

So far this year the Comprehensive Controls and Aid have been undertaken in seven provinces. Visits were paid to 447 rank-and-file organizations and 102 intermediate bodies. In all cases positive aspects were underscored and recommendations made to rectify those regarded as negative.

So far this year unions representing the food industry, FAR civilian workers, public administration, transportation and, more recently, construction workers, education, science and athletics, have held their national congresses, which have helped to bolster our work. The unions of shop, hotel and restaurant workers, tobacco workers, and merchant marine, ports and fishing will hold theirs in the remaining months of the year.

The 1981-82 program at the Lazaro Pena National School concluded successfully in the past 6 months, as 160 Cuban union cadres and 26 from Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde graduated. Five comrade labor leaders from Nicaragua were also trained as teachers.

During the first 6 months of the year 7,227 union cadres completed their studies at the 162 elementary schools of the CTC and its unions.

The collection of union dues is coming along fine. As of 31 August we had collected more than 80 percent of the dues we planned to collect this year. Never before have we done so well. Everyone deserves our



warmest congratulations for this accomplishment, in particular the unions of civilian FAR workers, agriculture, education, sciences, athletics and merchant marine, ports and fishing, and the provinces of Granma, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey and Holguin.

As far as expenditures are concerned, we must appeal to all unions and provinces to adhere strictly to the approved budget. We must by all means avoid posting a year-end deficit due to outlays not provided for in the regular budget.

Despite our gains in organization, we still acknowledge that we still have a long way to go on this road. Work among the rank-and-file could improve greatly, and we must be more responsive to the union sections. The National Committee of the CTC has given this matter careful consideration.

We must resolve our structural difficulties by getting away from theoretical debates as to whether the best approach is by branch or by institution. Our basic principle must be that the best structure is one that is economically rational and that enables us to be responsive to rank-and-file leaders and to have closer contacts with the workers.

Our work agenda is, of course, closely related to the final decisions that we make concerning structure, and this agenda is being questioned quite a bit. In addition to the excessive number of tasks that we ourselves plan for, we allow others to be piled on top, which means that when we try to encompass too much, we are biting off more than we can chew. Furthermore, structure and agenda also have an impact on our information network, on financial policy and on other matters on which opinions vary.

All of these problems are being painstakingly looked into by five committees that the CTC National Committee set up for this purpose. In the coming months we hope to see and assess some specific proposals to eliminate many of these shortcomings. This would unquestionably help strengthen all of the labor movement's efforts.

#### VI. The 10th Congress of the WFTU [World Federation of Trade Unions]

The 10th Congress of the WFTU was held in our country last February, and it was a success. In the view of many leaders from other countries, it was an unprecedented event in the history of the world labor movement. It was a modest but significant contribution by our country to the unity and solidarity of all the world's workers. We should emphasize that Fidel's brilliant speech at the opening session of this major event had an extraordinary influence on the subsequent debates and, above all, on the final resolutions.

This congress enhanced our CTC's standing within the WFTU and in the eyes of many independent union groups or groups that belong to other international organizations. Our standing has increased, but so have our responsibilities and commitments.

## VII. May Day

The May Day celebration was splendid. Mass rallies were staged in the municipalities, and parades were held in provincial capitals. The main event was an enormous March of the Combatant People that paraded through Jose Marti Revolution Square in front of the platform on which Fidel, Raul and the main leaders of our party, our government and our labor movement stood in the forefront. Also present on the platform were thousands of outstanding workers from all over the country who had been invited to attend as special guests.

The commemoration of this day helped to spur production and defense tasks. The rallying cry of the day was: "Dedicated to production and ready to defend the homeland."

The May Day celebration was another overwhelming revolutionary reaffirmation by the workers and the entire nation.

## VIII. The 15th Congress of the CTC

We plan to hold the 15th Congress of the CTC in February 1984. The position papers will be debated by the workers in the first half of 1983. The nationwide debate will be summarized at the provincial level at the CTC conferences that will be held in the last quarter of 1983.

The 1983 emulation will be dedicated to our 15th Congress, with an intermediate stage as a salute to the 30th anniversary of the glorious assault on the Moncada Barracks.

The preparations for the congress will be characterized by the wideranging involvement of the masses and full-fledged union democracy; they will be pursued in a revolutionary climate marked by a deep-seated sense of class, total identification with the cause of socialism and unwavering loyalty to and respect for the party and our chief and guide, Comrade Fidel.

The 15th Congress of the CTC will be the historic continuation of the memorable 13th Congress, and its achievements will unquestionably help to enhance the authority and role of unions in constructing the new society.

## IX. Defense Tasks

The Yankee imperialists are becoming increasingly aggressive, overbearing and arrogant. Their actions all over the world convincingly confirm this. Consider their most recent misdeeds. Engraved in our memories are their horrendous crimes against the Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians, perpetrated in shameless complicity with their allies, the genocidal Zionist murderers.

They are intensifying their threats and criminal actions against our homeland. This forces us to ready ourselves in every way, to be prepared to deal them a crushing blow if they should venture any attack against us.

We have made extraordinary efforts to bolster the country's defenses. Our regular troops are quickly and efficiently learning how to handle their new combat equipment. A half million trained and armed men and women make up the ranks of our Territorial Troops Militias. We are striving to continually strengthen the Worker Guard at work centers. Enormous efforts have been put forth to preserve our combat equipment and to safeguard our weapons and our soldiers, and all of the sons of this heroic people will become soldiers if the circumstances so dictate.

They will never take us by surprise. We will always be properly prepared to defend ourselves against any imperialist aggression. Their threats make us stronger and more determined; with each passing day they strengthen our unshakable resolve not to abandon any of our principles. We are and always will be Marxist-Leninists.

Our union movement has supported and will continue to support unconditionally and with all its strength the tasks involved in bolstering the socialist homeland. Our workers welcomed the idea of creating the MTT [Territorial Troops Militias] with extraordinary enthusiasm, and a great many of them have joined their heroic ranks.

As of 15 July the people have contributed 32,106,113 pesos to finance the MTT, and 23,201,978 comes from our organization.

On 16 April 1982, during the keynote ceremony on Militia Day in the city of Santiago, Comrade Francisco Herrera proposed that the financial contributions for the organization and training of the Territorial Troops Militias be made permanent. His proposal was warmly received right away by the workers and the entire nation, demonstrating once again their steadfast willingness to make any sacrifice to bolster our defenses and to preserve the accomplishments of the socialist homeland.

We have already drawn up a document with a set of rules for channeling ongoing financial aid to the MTT.

Before the end of October the Municipal Commissions are supposed to have completed a breakdown of scheduled revenues from each organization or body, and in this last quarter they must redouble their efforts to revitalize all avenues of financing.

#### X. Other Tasks

##### a) Political Study Groups

The number of political study groups that met during the first half of the year increased, as did the number of workers in attendance.

Nevertheless, the results in this area are still unsatisfactory. There were shortcomings in supervision; some union sections went the entire 6 months without holding meetings; there were instances in which due to a pro-forma approach and irresponsibility, the production assemblies and the study groups were held almost simultaneously; there were still problems in the distribution of materials; the attendance of the instructors was poor, and the proper methodology for these groups was not consistently employed, as some meetings were little more than readings with commentaries.

In June we did an in-depth critical and self-critical analysis of this situation and we even sent a report to all unions and provinces in which we analyzed the existing problems and urged them to promptly give a vigorous push to these efforts.

Although there are still difficulties and violations of rules, things seem to be going better this half of the year. We hope that the next report on the workers' study groups is not marked by so many critical and self-critical comments.

#### b) Young Workers

The CTC has been playing a major role in attracting young workers to be sent to socialist countries for training. We would make special mention of the union leaders who have been trained as group chiefs.

Despite the gains we have made, there are still shortcomings in our union efforts among young workers. We know of union sections that do not hold new membership ceremonies and of others that, though they stage them, do so in a pro forma way. There are still union leaders who do not grasp the profound political and ideological significance of this event. In June we conveyed our concerns in this regard to all the provinces. We must enhance our union work with young people substantially. Within the next few weeks we will be doing a checkup on this activity at a national meeting.

#### c) The Sanitation and Hygiene Campaign

The nationwide Sanitation and Hygiene Campaign that is under way is one of the country's community hygiene efforts. This is an extremely important activity and a valuable tool in the battle against disease carriers. Our union movement ought to lend it its total support.

#### XI Final Considerations

This is the end of the report. It mentions accomplishments that we ought to consolidate and shortcomings that we ought to eradicate.

Our union movement has to perform in a complex and difficult situation fraught with threats and dangers. But none of this frightens us. As always, we will be equal to the circumstances. Our doughty union movement

is in the vanguard of our nation, guided by our party and by a leader of world stature, Fidel.

We realize that it will not be easy to surmount the difficulties that are in store for us, but we possess more than enough spirit of sacrifice, more than enough dedication and more than enough firmness in our principles.

We have had the honored privilege of forging ourselves in the struggle. We can assert that we reflect the feelings of you, our glorious working class, of all workers and of the entire nation, when we say that we look down on easy triumphs, because the only true, glorious triumphs are the ones achieved through supreme, self-sacrificing efforts.

We will forge ahead. We will continue to march upward along the shining paths of constructing socialism.

Our country's development depends essentially on our close and exemplary economic and trade relations with the socialist community, in particular the Soviet Union.

A drop in our capacity to import from the world market will, in fact, create problems for us. We will be unable to purchase much-needed merchandise. This will force us to utilize all our reserves and to come up with many different ways of solving these problems, but in the long run it will help us see to it that our economy depends much less on trade with the capitalist countries.

As Fidel has pointed out, we are preparing to live in this kind of situation and we will put forth greater efforts at home, we will save more and we will be more efficient.

We will honorably perform all tasks, tasks involving production and tasks involving the sacred defense of the homeland.

Cuba's workers have shown and will continue to show their heroism, tenacity, revolutionary courage, creative intelligence and a deep-seated devotion to internationalism. Ours is a working people that produces men and women who serve as teachers, doctors, nurses, construction workers, technicians and in every other profession that makes its exemplary and generous contribution today to the development of other peoples; a working people that produces so many men and women who are willing to shed their blood to insure the happiness and freedom of other peoples; a working people that shows us its selflessness and labor exploits every day; a working people that is militarily prepared and willing to exchange its work tools for weapons to defend its accomplishments; a working people that has repeatedly responded affirmatively to all of the revolution's tasks, just as our doctors are responding today to Fidel's appeal to give priority attention to rural medicine. A working people like this is an invincible people.



With a people like ours we will survive all tests and emerge victorious!

With this optimism and assurance in the face of all future difficulties,  
we conclude this report!

Long live the Cuban Communist Party!

Long live our commander in chief!

Fatherland or death!

We shall overcome!

8743

CSO: 3248/266

## COMMENTARY ON COSTA RICAN ECONOMY, REAGAN VISIT

PA090440 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 8 Dec 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The only thing that Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has done since he seized power is to continue surrendering the country to foreign financial capitalists. To Monge there is no other solution to the economic crisis than the loans granted by the IMF and other financial institutions controlled by the United States.

In the recent visit that U.S. President Ronald Reagan made to Costa Rica, Monge didn't forget to ask for more money. In doing this he had no sense of shame, and he noted that his relations with the United States are characterized by a strong [words indistinct] communications. However, he didn't obtain any specific results, just vague promises of assistance.

The White House chief limited himself to expressing support for the economic plan proposed by Washington for Central America and the Caribbean and to recommending the solution of financial problems through the IMF.

Since this is the way things are, Monge will now have to go down the paths already traveled by his predecessors and continue to abide by Washington's fiscal mechanisms.

However, the crisis is increasing instead of decreasing. The already deteriorated Costa Rican economy is incapable of recovering despite any mending done. Costa Rica's foreign debt will amount to more than \$4 billion this year. This is a gap very hard to overcome, even if the terms to repay the debt are extended.

In addition, Costa Rica will close the year with a \$250-million trade deficit as a result of an imbalance between its exports and imports. To this one must add a surplus of 1 million quintals of coffee, which Costa Rica is uselessly trying to place on the U.S. market and which is being blocked by the drastic tariff measures that Washington has imposed on imports of agricultural products, textiles, shoes and electrical appliances.

Moreover, Costa Rica has been trying to get a new loan from the IMF in the past few months. In granting it over a short term and with a high interest rate, the IMF is imposing several conditions that affect the people's interests, including drastic cuts in the country's budget. To further decrease the already small amount devoted to the budget means to eliminate the few social programs in effect, such as housing, health, employment and education. This serious economic situation is further deteriorated by the ineptitude of the government's economic team, whose disastrous work has led the inflation rate almost to 95 percent and has caused a currency devaluation of 600 percent in the last 18 months.

Statistics published in San Jose disclosed that almost 70,000 Costa Rican professionals are jobless, and 50 percent of the country's employees receive less than \$50 per month. For the first time in Costa Rican history, the last group of graduates in dentistry did not find work or only found part-time employment. The high cost of living in that Central American country is equally alarming. So far this year, the prices of staples have been increased more than 10 times. There is also the crisis of a lack of foreign exchange at the Costa Rican Central Bank. This has resulted in the suspension of payments for imports of petroleum and petroleum byproducts from Mexico and Venezuela, whose state enterprises have had to condition new deliveries to the making of partial payments.

Costa Rica will begin 1983 with this not too promising outlook, and according to local observers there are no signs of improvement.

CSO: 3248/335

## BRIEFS

ISRAEL ACCUSED OF IGNORING RESOLUTIONS--At the United Nations, Cuba has asserted that the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East threatens the preservation of international peace and security and should be a topic of continued attention and concern for the world community. In a speech at a UN meeting, Cuba's alternate ambassador to the United Nations, Rolando Lopez, noted that despite the efforts of the international body aimed at finding a solution to the problem, Israel ignores with impunity the Security Council's resolutions. He pointed out that after 3 months since the withdrawal of the Palestinian combatants from Beirut, the Zionist troops still remain in Lebanon. Finally, the Cuban diplomat stressed that Tel Aviv, supported by the U.S. veto at the Security Council, continues to perpetuate criminal actions in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories of Gaza and the West Bank. [Text] [FL081448 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 82]

CEMA AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HOLDS MEETING--(Aleksandr Pek), president of the CEMA Permanent Commission for Agriculture, and the chiefs of the delegation attending have visited the genetics department of Matanzas Province to get acquainted with the agricultural development in this province and the main activities of the genetics department. [Text] [FL091459 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1305 GMT 9 Dec 82]

FORESTRY COOPERATION AGREEMENT--Cuban and Angolan representatives signed a forestry cooperation memorandum in Luanda today. The memorandum sets January 1983 for Cuban scientific reforestry studies to begin in the Angolan province of Cabinda, north of the capital. The accord was signed by Francisco Gonzalez, Cuban vice minister of agriculture and his Angolan colleague (Graciano Mande). [Text] [FL090230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 82]

PEACE MOVEMENT SENDS MESSAGE--The Cuban movement for the peace and sovereignty of the peoples has sent a message to Tanzania on the 21st anniversary of Tanzania's independence expressing solidarity with the Tanzanian people in their struggle to consolidate independence and national sovereignty. The communique emphasizes recognition of the Tanzanian people's struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism and apartheid and for freedom and peace in the African continent and Tanzania's independent economic and social development. [Text] [FL091920 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Dec 82]

U.S. ANTI-CUBAN PROJECT--According to press reports from New York, members of the U.S. Senate are confronting serious contradictions regarding the approval of Reagan's project for the installation of an anti-Cuban radio station. In one of the last sessions of the U.S. Senate, senator for Nebraska James Exon labeled this project as an unnecessary waste. Exon also said: This project will eventually hurt us. Exon was supported by Senators Edward Zorinsky and Charles Grassley. [Text] [FL081629 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 82]

CASTRO MESSAGE TO RESEARCHERS--Commander in chief Fidel Castro has sent a message to the directors of the scientific research institutes of the central committees of communist and workers parties, who are holding a meeting in this capital. Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, read the message. The message states: The fact that this meeting is being held in Havana proves the friendship and solidarity felt toward the firm revolutionary position advocated by Cuba. Montane pointed out that the meeting being held by the scientific research institutes is teaching us the experience of those fraternal parties which have made greater progress. Montane also said: We are not a people of military tendencies. We are vigorously and responsibly working for peace. Jesus Montane stated that a few weeks away from the 24th anniversary of the victory of our revolution, we can say that we have defeated all the counterrevolutionary arsenals of imperialism. He emphasized that our party has proved that building socialism is a voluntary task of free men and women. He added: Our victory is also the victory of the ideals and practices of proletarian internationalism. After reviewing the achievements of socialism in our country and the current international situation, Jesus Montane said: We will confidently maintain our dedication to peace, friendship and solidarity with peoples. [Text] [FL032302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Dec 82]

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS MESSAGE--The national ceremony for the day of the construction worker was held in a textile plant under construction in Santiago de Cuba at which a message by commander in chief Fidel Castro was read. The ceremony was attended by Jorge Risquet and Osmani Cienfuegos, members of the Politburo; Miguel Cano Blanco, alternate member of the Politburo; Jose Ramon Balaguer, first secretary of the party in Santiago de Cuba; and Jose Lopez, vice minister of the Council of Ministers and minister of construction. Fidel's message, read during the opening ceremony, says that this homage is a recognition by the party and people of the construction workers who build factories, highways, schools, houses, dams and many other projects for the economic development and well-being of the population. The message says that being a construction worker is one of the most honorable and dignified conditions in our society because construction workers are in the front line of workers who are forging socialism. [Text] [FL061402 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Dec 82]



FIDEL CASTRO GIVEN AWARD--The Cuban National Union of Communications Workers has granted commander in chief Fidel Castro the Mario Munoz award for his contribution to the development of communications. [FL071618 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1220 GMT 7 Dec 82 FL]

LEZCANO MEETS WITH DEPUTIES--Jorge Lezcano, vice president of the National Assembly of the people's government, met in Santa Clara with Villa Clara Province's deputies who will attend the third regular meeting of the second legislature of the state's supreme body. During the meeting, held at the local government office, Lezcano briefed the deputies on the topics to be taken up by the National Assembly, scheduled to meet from 27 to 29 December in Havana City. After ratifying the duties aimed at developing their work in favor of the people's interests and at maintaining close and constant contact with the voters, the representatives of local government bodies termed the meeting fruitful because it prepares them better for any government task. [Text] [FL081338 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Dec 82]

CUBA'S RODRIGUEZ DECORATED--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the councils of state and ministers, and several other party and state leaders have been awarded the 28 September medal. Armando Acosta, alternate member of the Politburo, presented the medals after reading the resolution of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] bestowing them. [Text] [FL091251 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 82]

CSO: 3248/336

## CONFERENCE OF WORLDWIDE INTELLECTUALS SLATED FOR CARRIACOU

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] Distinguished personalities from the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa, including Nicaragua's Vice-Minister of Education Francisco Lacayo, prominent Kenyan novelist Ngugi Wa Thiongo, and Barbadian novelist George Lamming, are expected to arrive here next month for a four-day conference on Education and Production.

The conference will be held in the sister island of Carriacou from November 22-26.

It will focus on integrating production with formal education, with special emphasis on Caribbean countries.

Chris Searle, one of its organisers, said participants would be analysing the experiences of Nicaragua, Cuba, Suriname and Grenada, all of which are now revolutionising their education policies.

Also expected among the delegates are South African novelist and African National Congress (ANC) representatives in Cuba, Alex La Guma, and Belize's Health Minister Asad 'Schuman.

Bro. Searle said the conference is being organised in co-operation with the Foundation for Education with Production, and African-based organisation, headquartered in Botswana. [as published]

"We hope as a result of the conference to set up a pilot project on education and production in Grenada and a standing commission in that area to instigate projects throughout the region," Bro Searle said. [as published]

The two African writers will deliver papers on liberation and culture within an African context. This will be complimented by big drum presentations from Carriacou's Big Drum dancers.

Funds for the conference are being raised by international funding agencies, including some in Canada, Sweden and Holland.

The conference, Bro. Searle said, will be the first of its kind to be held in Carriacou, "and will be a major step towards developing Camp Carriacou into an international conference centre."

Other participants will be coming from Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Ethiopia and most Caribbean countries.

CSO: 3298/136

## FULL SCHEDULE OF RALLIES, EVENTS PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Oct 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] A RECORD number of mass political and public activities -- will come off next month, marking historic activities of the Grenadian people in their struggle against the Eric Gairy dictatorship and imperialism.

They will also express solidarity with liberation struggles throughout the world, specifically that of the Palestinian and Southern African peoples.

Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour Selwyn Strachan, listing the activities in a press conference yesterday afternoon, described November as an important and historic month for the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and the Grenadian people due to the bitter struggles waged during November 1973 to free the people from the yoke of Gairyism and imperialism.

The biggest and most significant activity will be a mass rally in Seagoon, St. Andrew's, on November 21, to commemorate the ninth

anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Important policy decisions of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) will be announced at the rally, which, Min. Strachan said, "we envisage to be the biggest Bloody Sunday that will ever be held."

He said Bloody Sunday "is the second biggest national event after March 13th, "the date marking the overthrow of the Gairy dictatorship.

Min. Strachan disclosed that some 55 village meetings will be held in every parish to relate November's historic significance to the people and inform them of other activities for the month.

The first will come off on November 2, with the annual graveside ceremony in Birchgrove, St. Andrew's, for national hero, Scotilda Noel, who died accidentally in 1979.

On November 4, Bro. Strachan said, the NJM will recall the second most important historic event of that month, the 1973 "People's Congress", by airing a special radio programme on Radio Free Grenada (RFG). That congress, attended by thousands of people, passed five important resolutions, including one calling for Gairy's resignation within two weeks.

Two days after, November 6, Grenada will declare a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Two representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), its deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Hussien Hussain, and Palestinian educator and journalist, Numbia Hovespain, will come here to explain the background to the Palestinian struggle to the Grenadian people.

The following day, four separate activities will be held to honour T.A. Marryshow Day, Min. Strachan said. They are the launching of the Grenada Committee of Intellectuals, the official declaration of that day as "National Culture Day", the annual ceremony honouring Marryshow, and one honouring the 65th anniversary of the Soviet Union's Great October Socialist Revolution.

A mini-rally will come off in St. David's on November 11 to express with the struggling peoples and liberation forces in Southern Africa. Representatives of the African National Congress (ANC), the Angolan government and of Namibia's South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), are expected to be here for that rally.

Also on that day, Min. Strachan said, the Festival of Arts will begin. He explained that festival is extremely important for the cultural revolution, which is part of the overall social and economic revolution.

On November 17, Grenadian students will celebrate International Students' Day (ISD) for the fourth successive year. However, unlike previous years, this year's celebrations will take the form of separate rallies in each parish, including Carriacou. Both secondary and primary school pupils will participate in those rallies.

Min. Strachan also revealed that a small official ceremony will come off in St. Patrick's to remember the cowardly and brutal murder of four young men and a militiaman there in November 1980.

November 18--the actual date marking Bloody Sunday's ninth



anniversary -- will be marked by a special radio programme, since it would be a working day. The annual rally will be held the following Sunday.

Other activities to be held during the month are an intellectual

conference focusing on cultural imperialism, a conference on Education and Production in Carriacou, six important delegates meeting of the National Women's Organisation (NWO) and 23 zonal council meetings.

CSO: 3298/136

## UNION THREATENS ACTION AGAINST WATER COMMISSION

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] THE Technical and Allied Workers' Union (TAWU) is soon likely to instruct its members employed at the Central Water Commission (CWC) to take industrial action.

"We will definitely have to take industrial action because the deadline has passed and the CWC has not contacted TAWU with any new proposals" (for a new industrial contract), said TAWU's president Jim Wardally.

Giving latest details on negotiations for a new industrial contract between TAWU and CWC, Wardally said on Monday that little progress has been made and again charged CWC secretary-manager Leroy Neckles with delaying tactics.

He said CWC's board of directors has not contacted the union in over a week, pointing out that "this shows they are not interested in solving the matter."

Both sides are locked in a year-long dispute over a new contract covering salary increases, redundancy and severance pay, lunch allowance and health and pension benefits and the case of 28 workers CWC laid off in 1980.

Including the 28 workers in the new contract seems to be the main sticking point in the negotiations and has caused deadlock on most occasions.

According to Wardally, both sides had agreed before negotiations started that the dismissed workers' case would be included in a new retrenchment formula that would be part of the new contract.

Neckles, he claimed, reneged on that agreement by saying that what he had said before should be forgotten and only what he says now should be considered.

CWC's board, Wardally said, had given Neckles

the task of getting information on the dismissed workers to determine what form of compensation would be paid them.

The workers were part of an old contract which did not include a severance pay clause.

The nearest both sides had come to a solution was when they met more than a week ago, at the request of Minister of Mobilisation, Selwyn

Labour and National Strachan. They also met with Labour Commissioner, Franklyn Philbert.

While negotiations were going on, Wardally said CWC violated its existing contract with TAWU by laying off five workers without consulting the union. And, he further claimed that CWC also violates that contract by refusing to pay overtime wages.

CSO: 3298/136

## PORT DUES ON YACHTS HALTED; MARINE RADIO INSTALLED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 23 Oct 82 p 6

[Text] THE Grenada Ports Authority (GPA) has removed all port dues and fees on yachts.

GPA general manager, Sydney Coard, said this action was taken to boost tourism.

From meetings with the management of the Grenada Yacht Service, Spice Island Charters, and the president of the Caribbean Charterhouse Association, the GPA learned of a number of problems yachtsmen face when they come here.

The nature of the dues, which included fees for the first 48 hours the boat spends here, and for each subsequent 24 hours; clearance, pratique and navigational aid, were felt to be offputting. So the GPA waived them all from October 1.

The Yachting Association also suggested to the GPA that it should publish a brochure on the service available to yachtsmen; and that something be done about

the pilfering which affects yachtsmen when they leave their yachts. The pilfering has been taken up with the police, Coard said.

The GPA has also installed a 25-watt marine VHF radio at its office with a portable handheld five-watt VHF radio for out-of-office use.

These have been installed, Coard said, to give berthing instructions and to communicate with ships seeking to berth. Before the radios, the ships' agents had to apply for berthing, and if there was none available, either the agent would go and tell the captain, or the pilot just would not go to bring the boat in.

The hand-held radio has a limited range. Call signs are the Main Station and the Grenada Port Control. A mobile station will either be the main station, Port Control, or the St. George's pilot.

## BRIEFS

UNION EXPANSION--Some 150 workers in Carriacou recently joined the Technical and Allied Workers' Union (TAWU), which will open a branch there soon. The workers agreed to join the union during a visit to the island last week by TAWU's president Jim Wardally and one of its field officers. Included among the 150 are workers from Vena Bullen and Sons Ltd. and Mermaid Beach Resort, which is also owned by the Bullens. Bro. Wardally said TAWU met the Bullens to discuss a new industrial contract for their employees. "There appears to be some sort of resistance from management, however," he pointed out. TAWU has therefore written to the manager of Bullens and Sons, stating that it intends to meet him soon to discuss the contract. The letter also expressed hope that management will make efforts to co-operate with the union in the spirit of People's Law No. 29, which guarantees every worker the right to join a trade union of his or her choice. TAWU officials will make a follow-up trip to Carriacou. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 2]

CSO: 3298/136



## INCREASING OPPOSITION TO REGIME NOTED

PA302158 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Since the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] was created in February this year, the popular armed fighting has increased in Guatemala and has extended to all corners of that Central American country. As many Guatemalan guerrilla leaders have said, the merger of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, the Rebel Armed Forces, the Armed People's Revolutionary Organization and the Guatemalan Labor Party was a historic landmark in the mass revolutionary movement in Guatemala. Today those four organizations have joined forces to conduct the popular revolutionary war. Their political-military actions have hastened the general crisis that the genocidal Guatemalan regime, supported by the U.S. Government, is facing. These actions are causing continuous army defeats, demoralization of the soldiers, discredit of the oligarchic classes and unprecedented economic chaos.

Undoubtedly, the URNG's emergence marked a significant escalation in the popular war against the dictatorship. The people's massive and organized participation at all levels of the armed struggle is slowly breaking up the government machinery's organization and administration and is exacerbating the political crisis of the governing class. Likewise, a marked development of the political-military organizations is noticeable in their ability to build and consolidate local revolutionary power in several areas of the country, as well as to create embryonic local revolutionary armies.

The Guatemalan regime, its domestic allies and the U.S. Government have responded to the advance of the war with genocidal aggressiveness. In order to compensate for its military and political inability, which prevents its even checking the advance of the revolutionary forces, the fascist regime headed today by Gen Efraín Ríos Montt has intensified the repression and has made genocide the state's official policy.

Since Ríos Montt assumed power last March, the killings of defenseless residents, most of them Indians, have reached really dramatic proportions. More than 8,000 victims, including the dead and disappeared, is the toll of the repression in Guatemala in less than 12 months. The regime has generalized the scorched-earth

tactic, the establishment of strategic villages in the style of those created by the United States during the war of aggression against Vietnam, and the immediate murder of anyone who is even slightly suspected of cooperating with the guerrilla forces.

The last few months when, according to the regime, it has been waging what it describes as the final war, have produced one of the most tragic, shameful and bloody episodes in Guatemala's history. With the reiterated and obsessive goal of annihilating the armed revolutionary movement and of dismantling the growing popular insurgency, the dictatorship has designed a policy fundamentally based on the principle of taking everything to its final consequences, pushing repression to its highest limits and wiping away everything that does not conform to official policy.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that the military regime supported by Washington has unleashed all its forces to annihilate the Guatemalan revolutionary movement, the revolutionary popular war led by the URNG and encouraged by international solidarity advances with irrepressible force.

Everyday the number of social sectors joining the revolutionary war increases. If the regime must already face the rebellion of almost all the people, tomorrow it will have to face the insurgency of all the armed people. No barrier will then be able to stop the revolutionary torrent which will forever banish the present dominant structures and those who have turned Guatemala into a sea of blood.

CSO: 3248/332

## SEAGA BREAKS GROUND FOR MEDIA CENTER, HAILS POTENTIAL

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Nov 82 pp 1, 24

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga yesterday broke ground for the construction of a multi-million dollar Caribbean Media Centre at Catherine Hall in Montego Bay.

The centre, expected to cost well in excess of U.S. 50 million dollars, was being built behind the concept of making Jamaica the media communication centre of the Third World. Mr. Seaga told representatives of a wide cross-section of the Montego Bay community attending the function.

Mr. Seaga noted that when plans for the construction of the centre were announced in New York in early January it was hoped that work on the venture would have commenced in mid-year. However there was a delay as the economic recession in the U.S. had affected the mobilisation of funds for the venture.

He continued, "As a result the delay has not done us any harm. Indeed it has been to our credit and advantage because this centre which is to be built is larger in concept and bigger in investment than the one originally planned."

Work on the project, to be built on 30-acres of land, is to commence immediately. It will not be built in phases as originally announced but in one cycle of construction, according to the Prime Minister.

"It is As you have heard to be the most modern centre outside of the U.S. and certainly in the Third World." The centre, he said, would form the basis of Montego Bay becoming the Hollywood of the Third World.

Outlining the concept of the venture, Mr. Seaga observed, "It is true that it will provide jobs. It is true that it will provide an outlet for the creative talents for which Jamaicans are blessed. It is true that it will provide promotion for our country by virtue of the extent to which our scenery and people will appear in the footage of film shown and distributed across the world. All of these are important. But the concept that we had went a little larger than that. The concept that we have was to make Jamaica into the media communication centre of the Third World.

"It involves more than film-making. But in so far as it involves film-making it means that not only would we have the facilities to make films but that our facilities

would be used to make certain types of films which are badly needed as a part of the programming in the Third World which is starved for material which is relevant to the problems of those countries and which are needed as part of their development process."

It was intended, he said, to produce learning films, documentary films and films that have cultural background similar to the problems that were experienced by the majority of the world's people.

"AND THOSE films have a market place which is starved for that kind of material, having been accustomed to the material which is put out by the industrial world which is relevant to their problems and their perspective," Mr. Seaga said.

"Consequently, this was not only an act of benevolence in terms of being able to create material that would be beneficial to the Third World but it was indeed looking at the market place of the Third World and saying here is a huge gap, somebody has to fill it.

"And who is better to fill it than a country that has the capacity in terms of the infrastructure and strategic location considering its proximity to the world's greatest media centre, the U.S.A.," Mr. Seaga asked, adding "we have the ability to do so because of the technology developed over the years and the understanding of those problems which needed to be portrayed.

"We were therefore in an ideal position to do something about filling the gap. Therefore when Jamaica stepped into that slot not only to provide jobs, not only to provide a centre where many of the famous in the world of stardom will visit, all those are benefits but there is the other benefit of developing films relevant for our country's development," the Prime Minister said.

In order to make Jamaica into the communication centre of the Third World it was necessary to examine the facilities the country possessed and expand and improve them until they were taken to their natural maximum.

It was against this background, he said, that the Government was committed to the expansion of its communication system in terms of the advancement of

its telecommunication system and wider radio and television coverage.

Such commitment, he said, was indicative of a country which had taken media communication seriously and was prepared to give an opportunity to its artistes and people with creative talents.

MR. SEAGA also announced plans for the setting up of a special unit within the Jamaica National Investment Promotion Ltd. (JNIP) to promote Jamaica as a major film centre.

He commended the work of Mr. Paul Marshall, an accomplished attorney in the world's entertainment circle and who was present at the function, for his efforts in making the concept of the centre a reality. It was he who had paid the yeoman's role in putting the package together for the financing of the project, Mr. Seaga said. Among those speaking at the ceremony, chaired by the Minister of State for Culture, Mr. Ed Bartlett, was Mr. William Shand-Kydd, Managing Director of the British Films Limited, Mr. Lawrence Cutler, architect of Echo Design International, and Security Minister, Winston Spaulding.

CSO: 3298/139

## MINISTER BRODERICK GETS BACKING OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

## Vote of Confidence

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Nov 82 p 21

[Text]

A vote of confidence in the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, was expressed by the extraordinary general meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society on Wednesday at the auditorium of the Bank of Jamaica in downtown Kingston.

The resolution placing on record the association's "sincere vote of confidence," in Mr. Broderick was passed by acclamation with the more than 1,000 members of J.A.S. standing.

Moved by Mr. Wesley Shirley, a vice-president of the J.A.S., and seconded by another executive member, Mr. Basil Hamilton, the resolution noted that Dr. Broderick had completed his first two years in office "thus rendering it possible for the agricultural and allied fraternities of this nation to evaluate adequately the effectiveness of his mission."

"And whereas this remarkable public man has achieved excellence in his performance bringing exemplary leadership, vision, initiative, and dedication to bear on such performances; and whereas the Hon. Minister has spared no effort in effectively organising the widespread machinery of the Ministry in the positive implementation of his plans to embrace all vital economic factors, including the human resources, to the well being of the farming community in particular and the nation as a whole.

"And whereas this performance has brought renewed hope and confidence to all concerned especially those engaged in production and marketing of sugar, coffee, cocoa, spices, fruits, vegetables, tobacco, livestock and other crops, including the broad based membership of the J.A.S. notwithstanding the enormity of financial constraints with which the country has been confronted.

"Be it resolved that this extraordinary general meeting of the J.A.S. assembled in the auditorium

of the Bank of Jamaica on this the 10th day of November, 1982, places on record its sincere vote of confidence in the Honorable Dr. Percival Alwyn Broderick, Minister of Agriculture; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Minister with our best wishes and appreciation," the resolution said.

The resolution came against a call last week for Dr. Broderick's resignation on the grounds of non-performance by the leadership of the Peoples National Party.

## Broderick Address

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Nov 82 pp 1, 11

[Text]

Major food distributors have formed a company to sell quality domestic food crops on the export market, the Minister of Agriculture, the

Hon. Dr. Percy Broderick, announced yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Broderick made the announcement as he addressed an extraordinary general meeting of the Jamaica



Agricultural Society (J.A.S.) at the auditorium of the Bank of Jamaica in downtown Kingston. The meeting was born from Dr. Broderick's suggestion to the J.A.S. at their annual meeting earlier this year which proved inadequate to air problems been faced by members.

Dr. Broderick told the hundreds of farmers, who packed the auditorium that the distributors had met at Jamaica House two days ago and the Prime Minister had asked him to make the announcement at the meeting about the formation of the company.

Welcoming the new venture as "a sound break through" Dr. Broderick said it would be aiming at handling "volume production of quality export product."

In launching the Agricultural Credit Bank on October 20, Prime Minister the Hon. Edward Seaga had disclosed that he would be having discussions the following morning with major distributors with a view to working out arrangements whereby they could export domestic food crop, as part of the market solution for local food production.

Answering questions after the function, Dr. Broderick told the 'Gleaner' that the new company would be working in collaboration with the Agricultural Marketing Corporation. The A.M.C., he said, would be phasing out its buying function.

The new company had the option of a joint venture with the Government but if it elected to remain a private enterprise entity, then "fine." Dr. Broderick said he believed nine distributors were involved.

Dr. Broderick dealt with the need for markets for local food produce in a wide-ranging address following a catalogue of problems raised in a spirited manner by the J.A.S. members from across the island.

THE 12 PER CENT INTEREST rate on loans to the farming community was a vexed one as the members charged that it was too high. A resolution asking the Government to lower the interest rate moved by Mr. Arthur Lawson, from Westmoreland, was loudly acclaimed and unanimously passed, after another member Mr. Durvan Croisdale from St. Thomas, had likened the interest rate to a rope being placed around a man's neck and telling him to jump—"murder," he exclaimed, as the meeting vigorously expressed agreement.

One other farmer noted that the Government would not be able to build jails to hold the farmers who would be unable to repay the loans at that interest rate. Mr. Lawson's resolution also asked the Government to grant crop insurance.

Dr. Broderick also announced that the Prime Minister and the National Sugar Company had come up with funds yesterday to refurbish sugar factories. As a result Dr. Broderick said "this morning" he had instructed the N.S.C. to go full speed ahead with repairs to the seven factories.

Responding to criticisms of the interest rate, Dr. Broderick in his address, said he recognised the problem but he could not promise that interest rate would be lowered.

INVITING THE MEETING to "look carefully" at the problem, Dr. Broderick stated: "the 12 per cent is high if market is not there. Any per cent is high if you can't sell. If is one per cent you borrow at and you can't sell you in dog cane-piece same way. If you are selling what you produce there would be no sweat," Dr. Broderick said to applause.

"We must zero in on the real problem that affects us and not on politically contrived criticisms to mislead

us and keep us into utter darkness from which we have just come.

Pointing to the need for efficiency in production, especially in a situation where "we are inextricably interlocked with nature" and there was the need to observe planting time, Dr. Broderick remarked: "let us not get lost with 12 per cent but let us look at markets."

The Government, he said, could approach the problem by asking the Bank of Jamaica to print money and by printing money "a whole lot of brand new Bogies would roll out." This would not be sound policy, however as inflation and devaluation would follow.

What the Government must head to was marketing arrangements that would secure the integrity of "our currency." Dr. Broderick said that it was important to work out external market arrangements as well as to re-organise internal marketing arrangements to deal with the surplus from local food production as well as things like shortages in one parish when another had plenty.

It was at this juncture that Dr. Broderick made the announcement of the major distributors forming the company to sell quality exports of local food. Dr. Broderick said that he would be making announcements next week about the re-structuring of the Banana Industry pertaining to the boards. Mr. Clarence Franklin, acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, would head one of the Boards dealing with administration.

Dr. Broderick, outlined a catalogue of achievements by himself and the Government for Agriculture

"I understand your difficulties, you will have to understand mine. We are both on the same side," Dr. Broderick said.

Mr. Courtney Fletcher, president of the J.A.S. presided and extended welcome. Mr. Alexander Shirley, first vice-president, said thanks.

In "just two years," turning to the sugar industry, Dr. Broderick, quoting figures, said that there was a drop of sugar production of 176,000 tons between the years 1972-1981 yet despite this there was talk in some quarters about changing Minister.

Pointing to the failure of the sugar industry and the "voices reminiscent of failure," Dr. Broderick referred to the changing of several Ministers of Agriculture by the last administration, including "the great cause," Dr. Broderick said in a short while he would be one of the longest serving Ministers of Agriculture in recent times and "I am here to stay."

Dr. Broderick said it was because he and the Government cared for the small farmers, the sugar industry and Agriculture why the sugar industry which cost more each time more was produce, was still functioning and efforts were being made to revitalise it.

He mentioned that the process of building Agriculture was a long one. He urged the farmers to be resolute and congratulated them on the very impressive turn out at the meeting. He urged them to support their organisation, mentioning that he supported the decentralisation of the decision making process in Agriculture, hence the setting up of the Land Authorities. Each new Land Authority Board, he said, would have a J.A.S. representative on it.

## SHIPPING ASSOCIATION HEAD URGES LABOR REFORMS AT PORT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Nov 82 pp 1, 14

[Text]

CHAIRMAN OF THE Shipping Association of Jamaica, Mr. R. C. N. Smith, has warned that the jobs of portworkers are threatened if "sound, mature, and scientific leadership" is not adopted by those who speak for the workers.

Speaking against the background of the decision of Sealand Services Inc. of the United States to pull its container shipping service out of Jamaica because of what the company sees as too many strikes at the port, Mr. Smith repeated an earlier call for the formation of a Port Users' Committee as a solution to the labour situation on the port.

Mr. Smith was speaking at the inauguration and induction ceremony of the Portmore Jaycees on Saturday night.

The Port Users' Committee, he said, would be a permanent body under the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport, and would meet regularly to discuss matters that would ensure steady progress and development in the island's ports.

When Mr. Smith first made the call in September, he had proposed that all the private sector interests that comprised the complex group called port users - importers, exporters, the Shipping Association, the customs broker and the unions - must be involved.

"Such a forum, meeting monthly, would ensure that those whose livelihood depend on the port, have a total picture of the strengths and weaknesses of port operations, what is planned for development and what must be done to guarantee the economic health of the port", he said.

"It would ensure that responsible, informed management and leadership is applied, for," he added, "until this is achieved, we will continue to make mistakes, costly mistakes."

THE EXPERIENCE at the port over recent weeks, Mr. Smith said, should have brought forcibly to the attention of all Jamaica that an unstable industrial relations climate at the port, or even what is perceived

as unstable, could have damaging and far-reaching effects on the country.

"Some ships can cost their owners up to U.S.\$25,000 a day to operate, even if the ships are docked. If you were the owner of ships, ask yourselves would you risk having your ship tied up in a port while the local interests battle with striking workers.

"It is only natural therefore for ports with unstable labour relations to lose most of their business. Ship-owners and charterers really have little choice but to seek another port, a more stable and dependable port, to transship from.

"Now, when a country like Jamaica has millions of dollars in foreign exchange tied up in expensive port equipment, money that has been borrowed at today's high rate of interest, what happens if that country develops a bad reputation among shipping lines of the world? I think the answer is obvious. Our unions must take a more mature approach in guiding the workers they represent," Mr. Smith said.

MR. SMITH said it was noteworthy that in the United States' automobile industry, workers and management had come together to deal with the problem of lagging sales and the threat of wide-spread loss of jobs. Because of the revolutionary action of the workers, companies like General Motors and Chrysler, were able to keep afloat over the cruel recession of recent years.

Contrasting the situation in Jamaica, Mr. Smith said the country stood to lose a lot, the jobs of the workers "are threatened if sound and mature and scientific leadership is not adopted by those who speak for the workers."

Mr. Smith referred to trends developing over recent years where it appeared that the workers and their representatives had lost sight of what was best for the common good. The Shipping Association and himself were not anti-union or anti-worker. "In fact, every member of our association is proud of the material gains that have been made by our portworkers since 1938. Our portworkers are perhaps the envy of many countries in the region, Mr. Smith added."

He noted that high port costs had a direct effect on the cost of living, and said: "It is the consumer, you and I, who ultimately pay, and if our exports are uncompetitive, then we sell less, and even that carries a cost to the nation."

Commenting on the competitive nature of the trans-shipment business, Mr. Smith said: "Until we are able to control port costs we will be jeopardising the viability of our port operations while at the same time, subjecting the Jamaican economy to additional and unnecessary inflationary pressures."

Mr. Smith challenged the Jaycees and other service organisations in Portmore to help build a new city with

new attitudes, a strong community spirit and a city bent on achieving a new way of life. He urged them to learn from the mistakes made in the development of Kingston and the early days of Portmore.

Jaycees State president, Mr. Vernon Ricketts, installed the new Board of Directors. Mr. Roxroy Wellington, president, delivered the policy statement. Brief greetings also came from Mr. Ricketts, and Jaycees vice-presidents, Miss Merle Daley and Mr. Allan Miller. Mr. Roy Edwards, presided. Miss Beulah Smith, Portmore Jaycees vice-president, said thanks.

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## ASSESSMENTS OF SEAGA'S STATUS REPORT NOT ALL LAUDATORY

Hearne Comment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Nov 82 p 8

[Article by John Hearne: "Mid-term: Another Look"]

[Text]

The editorial call, in yesterday's Gleaner, for a better use of Parliament was timely and should not be ignored by the Government.

It is not fair to either the Opposition or the country for the Prime Minister to occupy three and a half hours of parliamentary time making a statement on his government's progress and plans without allowing equal time for reply from the other side of the House.

Press conferences — which is what the PNP have had to be content with — do not have the same authority and, of course, cannot have the same depth as would debate in Parliament.

For what Mr. Seaga had to say last week Tuesday is too important to be subject only to the challenge of a Press statement by Mr. Seymour Mullings and another by Mr. Manley.

Mr. Seaga ranged, in detail, over the first two years' achievement and the next two years' projected growth.

**World recession**

He spoke in the context of a world recession that shows no sign of easing and in which the most carefully thought out and imaginative plans for our economic recovery may well founder. It will take only the smallest worsening of the unemployment figures, the smallest further contraction of the growth rates, in North America, Western Europe and Japan for Jamaica to face disaster. And this disaster could well be compounded by the gamble this government has taken in committing to a path of export, a deregulated market and relatively free money.

The situation in bauxite is an example of how closely we depend on the industrial giants of the north for our economic well-being. America, Western Europe and Japan are now simply over-supplied with aluminium. They are not making sufficient new goods to absorb their present stockpiles of bauxite and alumina. The bauxite producers of the world are now in much

the same position as the oil countries: both face a glut of their products in a sluggish First World market. The difference between the oil producers and those of us who rely on bauxite is that we have not accumulated anything like the enormous capital reserves and extensive portfolios of investment which the oil producers can use to cushion them against the worst shocks of a depressed world economy. Only the hardest selling by our government has kept the industry ticking over at its present level of 9.2 million tonnes to be exported this year. The projections for counter-trading, while encouraging, are still dependent on the recession growing no worse and, indeed, improving slightly.

**Long-term proposals**

Similarly, the great hopes laid by this government on new investors (both foreign and native) are simply not being realised at the level anticipated two years ago. It is true that over one hundred new enterprises have been attracted by the JNIP (Jamaica National Investment Promotions) and some 10 thousand new jobs created. But these enterprises average well under 3 million dollars per investment; and we cannot confidently look forward to the needed large new investments here while investors are sitting on their money in their own countries.

The proposals for growth in agriculture promise well but are, by their nature, long-term. Meanwhile there can be no doubt that the small grower of domestic crops is hurting badly. Plans for him to channel much of his yield into new export markets will not be felt as a financial reality in the near future. His best hope is that the consumption of our food and flowers abroad is less likely to be affected by a continuing recession than is bauxite or our invisible export of tourism.

But even in agriculture, the projections for increased credit are touched by the world's continuing money crisis. The 15 million dollars available to small

farmers now — and the 45 million dollars to be available next year — are at 12½ percent interest. The lending agencies abroad, who are the sources of these funds, will not entertain the idea of anything less than 12½ percent interest rate. The small farmer may find himself in a Catch-22 situation: that is, he will be unable to expand or diversify into a export market without a loan, but that until he begins to find new markets he cannot meet the interest on his loan.

### CBI in dry dock

Mr. Seaga did not dwell on the Caribbean Basin Initiative in his mid-year review. Just as well. The CBI is not dead in the water is, at least, in dry dock in the American Congress, as politicians anxiously consider the likely consequences to themselves of approving the duty-free entrance of foreign products into an America of eleven million unemployed voters. No rational argument will convince these voters that the volume of products to be admitted is so small that they would make no difference to American employment or welfare benefits. No rational argument will persuade American voters that there might be a small spin-off for

them as Jamaican producers, with open markets into a huge economy, purchase more American consumer goods. CBI was a central factor in Mr. Seaga's original planning of the structural adjustment of our economy. The fact that it is as yet hardly functioning must mean an adjustment to his adjustment policies.

All the same, it cannot be denied that the Seaga Administration has, so far, ridden out a wild, unpredictable world situation. To have reduced the inflation rate from 23 percent last year to 4.7 percent (or even as some say 8 percent) this year, to have held our unemployment figures to not a lot more than in 1981, to have registered any sort of production growth, to have held our currency stable, to have endangered upswings in tourism and construction, and to have attracted any quantity of new investment are all considerable achievements.

Whatever his critics may say, Mr. Seaga is putting his reputation where his mouth lies. He has a risk policy of improvement and he is sticking to it. Nobody else has yet come up with a convincing alternative strategy.

### 'Sad Experience'

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 14 Nov 82 p 5

[Article by W. Val Chambers]

[Text]

**WATCHING** Prime Minister Edward Seaga address the House and the nation via television last Tuesday evening was a sad experience. He went from success to success, achievement to achievement, from glory to glory, no doubt the greatest Government in the world. One would have thought it was election time.

He gave a litany of success so comprehensive he displaced both news, weather and sports. I kept wondering if we lived in the same country. It was good old Jamaican rhetoric, obscuring the fact of our deep difficulties. The Seaga government has, by the leader's own reckoning, done everything right. The only negative is bauxite which, of course, is not the government's fault.

The Prime Minister in his speech congratulated minister after minister and at least one minister was ecstatic. Her Minister Baugh on the contrary sat almost impassive under severe congratulations. I have a new respect for the man.

Eddie Seaga is now the new prophet, with all the expected Jamaican rhetorical flourishes. "For the first time at last" is now replaced by "because we dare to

care". There is something unseemly about a leader burdened with the problems of a backward, undeveloped country indulging in such unalloyed self-congratulations. Apparently leadership of this country is in itself a kind of intoxication in which each leader is successively afflicted.

### Dramatic best

Can we not see the parallel between the first years of the Manley Government and the present ego grip that this government is now on? Despite the unsolved problems Mr. Seaga speaks of "the drama of our achievement." He was at his dramatic best on Tuesday night. And his colleagues loved it.

Indeed, the saddest part of the whole proceedings to me was the response of his fellow members of parliament who behaved like unthinking little boys. They applauded almost everything the Prime Minister said as if they were hearing some news for the first time. What their own government has been doing was apparently foreign to them. It was unbelievable; all these big men mindlessly cheering their Prime Minister and themselves as it were at the touch of a button.

Now and again you could hear a stifled shriek, a scream of ecstasy. They could not have been cheering real



deeds; the words, the brilliance of the statements must have got to them.

In Jamaican politics there is no dissent back bench; everyone seems to be caught up in the great self-deception brought on by the magic of words. In private some of them are deeply dissatisfied and there has been a resignation or two. But to watch our representatives on Tuesday night was to recognise that politics in Jamaica was primarily a game. One also despairs of ever succeeding in letting this government know that they can do anything wrong. They know where they are going, or at least their leader knows.

### Unbelievable

I would have respected the Prime Minister a little more if he had left some ministries unmentioned. I learn, for instance, that agriculture is a great exciting success, and Dr. Broderick graciously took his bow. It is unbelievable

but there are so many secret achievements the country hardly knows about. Of course, this government does not

believe in land reform - the only primarily agricultural country in the history of the world to expect to develop without a reallocation of land.

One could hardly believe that this is a country historically scarred by the old plantation system. This government is going to develop without changing anything. Yet Mr. Seaga boasted that his government is committed to helping the poor. The poor big land owner and the poor big businessman will be smiling from ear to ear.

While one cannot absolve the PNP for their part in the political violence during their later years, one feels a little uneasy about Seaga's boast about restoring safety to the country. Didn't the JLP have any part in the violence?

After two years the JLP government has presented a report that suggests that it is prepared to ignore the mistakes of the past and the advice of several United Nations agencies about the road to development. Never in history has a government been more satisfied with itself.

### Economic Situation Review

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Nov 82 p 13

[Text]

Jamaica is still besieged by serious problems, despite its impressive advances on the economic front. Gains in the direction of a free-market economy are real. However, the pace of Prime Minister Seaga's "deliverance" from the economic ruin he inherited is hampered by external factors over which he can exert little influence. The slow, piecemeal progress is providing fodder for growing criticism at home and abroad. The small steps toward liberalization, such as import relaxation, have sparked some controversy.

Seaga must soon come to grips with the imperative challenges of unemployment, foreign exchange shortages and skittish confidence. Kingston has been assured of massive injections of aid - 150 million SDRs from the IMF as part of its \$398 million 1981 borrowing, \$95.8 million from the World Bank and \$150 million from the US - which will help galvanize growth. However, the assistance may exacerbate rivalries with increasingly competitive Caribbean neighbours.

#### Control

Barring severe economic dislocations, institutional stability is assured for the medium term. The government is firmly in control of Parliament, with Seaga's

Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) controlling 51 of the 60 seats in the House of Representatives.

However, the Opposition People's National Party (PNP), still led by former Prime Minister Michael Manley, should not be discounted because of its limited representation. Manley is actively trying to burnish his image while he restructures his party. The charismatic politician may be able to parlay the JLP's overreliance on external aid and its unexpectedly slow performance, particularly on the social scene, into future advantage. A more direct threat to day-to-day political stability would be a resurgence of crime and urban unrest, but this is not a serious

danger unless the recovery collapses.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative's (CBI) inability to win speedy passage through the US Congress is having a distinct impact on Jamaica, mostly in terms of the economy. Many investors are still hesitant to commit themselves to new capital injections until they know the final form, if any, that the CBI will take.

#### GDP

The Jamaican economy will expand slightly this year, possibly matching last year's 2% growth. In 1981, GDP totalled US\$2.98 billion in current items; up 2% in real terms from the year before. Per capita income rose to US\$1,340.

Industrial production will be mediocre. The key contributions of bauxite and alumina will stagnate as long as world demand lags, probably well into 1983. Bauxite production in 1981 fell by 3.2% to 11.5 million MT, and alumina rose by 3.5% to 2.5 million MT. The Jamaican government sold 1.6 million tons of bauxite ore to the US for the latter's strategic stockpile. Another purchase of some one million tons may occur later this year or early next; it would provide some relief from the slump.

The bauxite sector was also troubled by a year-long contract dispute that prompted refinery closing. A settlement reached in February will cost the five North American-owned mineral firms operating in Jamaica \$33 million in wage increases. Jamaica's total year-end bauxite production is not expected to be much greater than eight million tons, which would be a 28% decline from 1981 levels.

### Law of Sea

Construction posted a 2.4% growth rate in 1981, and activity will continue apace this year as projects already on stream and new building approvals move into the construction phase.

However, the government's hopes of attracting the International Seabed Authority to Jamaica may have been dashed, or at least postponed, by the recent US decision not to adhere to the International Law of the Sea. Construction projects for the Authority, both planned and in progress, must be weighed until the future of the UN's natural resource arm is more certain.

Domestic employment in construction grew 14.2% in 1981, helping to ease burgeoning unemployment. Steel production was up 26% and cement output climbed 13.7% and should continue to benefit from projected gains in the construction industry.

Manufacturing only grew 0.4% in 1981, as the limited availability of foreign exchange curtailed imports of necessary inputs and machinery. Expansion for this year may be in the 3-5% range. Pent-up demand will carry production for the domestic market, now slightly less constrained by imports curbs. New investments geared to exports are due on stream in coming months and would spur additional expansion.

### Agriculture

Despite efforts to spur the farm sector, output will not be impressive. Jamaica's major export crops, bananas and sugar have been depressed by the lingering effects of Hurricane Allen and low world prices, respectively. Banana production in 1981 toppled 43.2% to 18,774 MT but will show a much stronger performance this year as new plants begin to bear fruit. Sugar slid 13.5% to 196.6 thousand tons last year and is unlikely to rebound quickly because of depressed market prices. Citrus production also fell last year, but increased export demand should prod the industry.

Tourism is showing definite improvement after last year's disappointing performance. Though the number of visitors is growing more slowly than expected, their estimated expenditures are rising. Some 552,000 tourists

passed through Jamaica last year (an increase of only 1.6% over 1981), while preliminary data indicate that estimated expenditure rose some 8% to US\$260 million.

Indications are that 1982 will see even better tourism revenue. From January to March of this year, US\$121 million was grossed from the sector, a 44.2% rise over the \$83.9 million earned during the first quarter of 1981. Still, the Kingston administration's desire to attain a 30% increase in visitors to the island this year seems exceedingly ambitious in a tight global economy and amid increasing competition for the US tourism market from the European and Mexican sectors.

Government's spending for 1982-83 emphasizes the need to eliminate deficit spending as soon as possible. The J\$2.80 billion (J\$1.78; US\$1) budget is little changed from the year before in real terms. Current expenditure accounts for 69% of the total, and the remaining 31% is earmarked for capital expenditures. The budget deficit of J\$1.06 billion - equivalent to 38% allocations - is, nonetheless, an improvement over the 1981-82 45% deficit.

### Investment

The investment climate in Jamaica is now one of confidence edged with caution. In 1981, Jamaica attracted US\$21 million in new investment and the outlook for increased injections of capital by the private sector looks promising. By late April, 1982, the Jamaica National Investment Promotion agency had approved 56 of 337 new investment proposals worth some \$76 million.

Investments are being sought in agro-industry and food processing, automotive parts, electric and electronic products, footwear and leather goods, and garments.

Jamaica's traditionally ornery unions are now notably moderate in their wage demands. Worries over job security are the main reason for the quiet, though last year's progress against inflation undoubtedly contributed. The expected pickup in the cost of living will probably lead to wage demands in the range of 15-20%, with settlements comfortably below that.

An additional labour cost will be the 3% of total payroll that private companies must now contribute to the Seaga administration's Human Employment and Resources Training Programme (HEART).

Jamaica's consistently high unemployment has abated somewhat during the last year, but the rolls remain staggering. More than three percentage points were shaved from unemployment, which dropped to 25.6% at end-1981. The government has had to intervene in many areas to protect jobs jeopardized by closings. For example, the Seaga government recently bought out the privately-held Montego Free Port because its mounting financial problems would have threatened more than 700 jobs.

Jamaica still offers competitively low-cost labour for manufacturing and assembly industries. In 1981, wages ranged from a low of US\$25 to a high of US\$78 per week for unskilled workers in the electronics and beverage industries, respectively. Machine operators' wages

for the same category usually amounted to an additional 22% of wages.

### Prices

Inflation this year will probably be in the 8-10% range. Year-end inflation was only 4.7% in 1981, a marked improvement over 1980's 28.6% increase.

Throughout 1981, the bank rate and the prime lending rate coasted at 11% and 13%, respectively. Credit to the public sector was curtailed as part of the ongoing IMF agreement, and personal loans were extended at 4 percentage points over prime.

Jamaica's balance of trade looks bleak for the rest of 1982, although more and more export projects will be producing. The Jamaican National Export Corporation, is spearheading a new export drive concentrating on cigars, coffee, clothing, flowers, fresh produce and processed foods, furniture and liquor.

Imports have surged in response to Seaga's limited deregulation and long-suppressed demand, leaving a trade deficit of US\$134.2 million for the first quarter is critical if he hopes to stimulate the economy,

of 1982 - more than triple the deficit for the same period just one year ago. Total imports were US\$1.49 billion, a 27% rise that went mainly to essentials such as fuel (US\$499 million), machinery (US\$152.3 million) and food (US\$105 million). Exports last year rose a meager 1.6% to US\$980 million, leaving a shortfall of US\$18 million.

The Jamaican dollar, which has officially been valued at J\$1.78: US\$1 since 1979, is feeling the pressure of a lucrative parallel market rate. A devaluation is something that

Seaga must weigh heavily. The timing of such a move capture a greater share of the tourist market and avoid the political fallout that might result from his taking such a step later in his term.

Total reserves, which at end-December 1981 were US\$582.8 million in the red, improved by US\$39 million during the first quarter of 1982. At end-March, reserves stood at a negative US\$543 million. Gross reserves at year-end were a skimpy US\$99 million, barely at end-1981, a 22% increase over the figure for the previous year.

CSO: 3298/137

## SUGAR INDUSTRY CHIEF, BOARDS NAMED IN RESTRUCTURING MOVE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

**A NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY HAS BEEN APPOINTED as part of the Government's plan to restructure the sugar industry. He is Mr. H.S. "Bill" Ive, the Managing Director of Trelawny Estates Limited.**

The appointment of Mr. Ive as SIA Chairman spells out the fact that the Government has

decided that the functions of the Sugar Industry Authority and the National Sugar Company (NSC) have got to be controlled by separate Boards, and rescinds the decision made earlier this year to have a single board under a Chairman as was done when Mr. Trevor Donaldson was named as Chairman of the SIA.

The Sugar Industry Authority established under the Sugar Control Law with the responsibility of overall planning and research, regulating, marketing sugar and acting in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Agriculture regarding the development of the industry.

In keeping with the revised decision the Min-

ister of Agriculture has appointed a new Board for the National Sugar Company. The Members are: Dr. Keith Roache, Chairman; Mr. Ainsley Elliott, Mr. Frank Downie; Manager Secretary of the SIA; the Chairman of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association, Mr. T.G. Mignott; Mr. C.G. W. "Cliff" Stone, of the Bustamante Industrial Trades Union; Mr. H.O. "Roy" Thompson, President of the National Workers Union; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture or his nominee; a representative of the Jamaica National Investment Company; a representative of the Minister of Finance and Mr. Evon Brown of the NSC.

The members of the Board of the SIA are: Mr. Ive, Chairman; two representatives of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association (Mr. T.G. Mignott and Mr. Ken Haughton); two representatives of the sugar manufacturers (Mr. Owen Clarke and Mr. Derrick Brown); two persons who are neither cane farmers nor manufacturers (Mr. H.O. Thompson and Mr. Cliff Stone, who are officers of the BITU and the NWU). The life of this Board ends about the middle of December this year.

Mr. Ive the new SIA Chairman has served as Manager of the Frome sugar factory during the time it was owned by the West Indies Sugar Company.

## SPECIAL POLICE ASSAILED; APPEAL FAILS TO STOP SICK-OUT

## 'GLEANER' Condemnation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Nov 82 p 1

[Page One Editorial]

[Text]

We are horrified by the report that a member of the Island Special Constabulary Force should so forget himself and the position of trust and responsibility which he and his colleagues hold in the country, as to utter a threat to "become gunman and harass the police."

That a member of the Security Forces, and a ranking member at that - he is a Sergeant - should harbour such a thought, much more to voice it, it is alarming.

What is even more frightening is the report that the remark was applauded by his colleagues who have since demonstrated their apparent approval and endorsement of it by

demanding the suspension of the staff officer who made the report to the police authorities on the meeting at which the threat was uttered; and are now taking industrial action to enforce that demand, among others.

There are serious implications in the conduct of the Special Constables in this instance. To indulge in a "sick-out" is to take part in an immoral cowardly and dishonest act. To demand the removal or dismissal of an officer for doing his very proper duty strikes at the root of discipline and good order in the Force.

If any one deserves to be sternly disciplined in this frightening affair it is not the officer who made the report but the member of the Force who uttered the threat.

## Commissioner's Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Nov 82 pp 1, 24

[Text]

COMMISSIONER OF Police, Mr. Joe Williams, yesterday appealed to members of the Island Special Constabulary Force "not to allow themselves to be misled or used by anyone for personal reasons and in a manner calculated to interfere with the discipline of the Force."

Mr. Williams made the appeal in a statement "on the present unrest" ("sick-out") in the I.S.C.F. Mr. Williams said that public statements by members of the Select Committee of the I.S.C.F. in the news media had

not given the facts and circumstances of the issue in a way that the public might properly assess the situation.

"Clarifying the issues" involved, Mr. Williams stated that over the years the Select Committee, which represented the general membership of the I.S.C.F. in matters concerning their welfare, had made representations to Government regarding improvements in their working conditions, tenure of office, emoluments and other benefits including pensions, leave facilities and sick benefits.



They recently had audience with the Prime Minister on these issues.

MR. WILLIAMS said that at a meeting with the Committee on September 14, shortly after he became Commissioner, he was briefed on some of the issues.

"Arising from this meeting, arrangements have been made for the first time in their history, for Special Constables and District Constables to get a day off with pay in every week. There is no lack of sympathy for their welfare or disregard of their serious representations made to me.

"Subsequently, however, a number of serious allegations of misconduct on the part of a prominent member of the Committee was brought to my attention and departmental investigation was ordered.

"Arising out of the investigations, disciplinary charges have been placed against the member. It would not be appropriate, therefore, for any details to be given publicly or any comments made on the merits of these charges."

Mr. Williams said that on October 13, 1982, a member of the I.S.C.F. was arrested for shooting at a bus conductor at Cross Roads. The following day a meeting was held at the request of the Committee. The first matter brought up was the arrest of the Special Constable who the Committee said should not have been arrested. Statements should have been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for his direction, the Committee stated, Mr. Williams said.

"They demanded that I issue instructions to the regular Force that Special Constables should be arrested only on the Director of Public Prosecutions' directions. This unprecedented demand was refused since any member of the Police Force, including Special Constables, has the right to arrest any person who commits a serious offence in his view and I have neither the right nor authority to take away or in any way modify that right.

"SUBSEQUENT to that meeting, a request in writing was made seeking permission for an all-island

emergency meeting of the Select Committee and members of the I.S.C.F. I refused permission on the grounds that there was no emergency; that there was no need to pull the members off their duties for this reason; and, in any event, I wished to be present at such meeting. I could not attend on the proposed date. This was conveyed to them.

"Despite my instructions, a meeting was called by the Committee at Harman Barracks on October 20. At this meeting many irresponsible, dangerous and inflammatory statements are alleged to have been made, some of which have been reported in sections of the media."

Mr. Williams said that arising out of the conduct of the meeting, further charges had been laid against some members of the Committee.

"The present unrest therefore did not begin as a demonstration in respect of matters relating to their claims for improved benefits and other matters of welfare but against the background of serious charges against members of the Committee.

"As Commissioner of Police, I cannot allow any arm of the Force over which I have command to behave in a manner inimical to good order and discipline. My stand on this is well known.

"I appeal to members of the Island Special Constabulary Force not to allow themselves to be misled or used by any one for personal reasons and in a manner calculated to interfere with the discipline of the Force," Mr. Williams ended.

A Committee spokesman told the Gleaner yesterday that in keeping with the plan, the "sick-out" would be called off today, to continue for another three days on Saturday.

The "sick-out" is to press the authorities to act on a three-point demand made on them pertaining to improving the welfare of members of the Force; removal of the Staff Officer Deputy Commandant R.N. Harris; and for the Commissioner to treat the Select Committee with respect.

### Official Retaliation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 pp 1, 20

[Text]

Special Constables, their three-day "sick-out" over, reported to work yesterday morning to find that they were not assigned firearms or dispatched on duty, on the instructions of the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams.

"The situation will remain until the air is cleared," Mr. Williams said in answer to a question from the 'Gleaner' on the matter.

Speaking specifically on the non-issuance of firearms, Mr. Williams referred to recent statements by the leadership of the Specials. He said that in these circumstances he could not entrust the Specials with firearms because "I don't know what they are going to do".

The 'Gleaner' was later informed that those Specials who did not participate in the industrial action, which was to press the authorities to act immediately on matters affecting Specials, were given firearms and sent on duty.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT yesterday, Sergeant Joseph Maynard, Secretary of the Select Committee, which represents the over 2,000 rank and file members of the Island Special Constabulary Force, was suspended from duty without pay, on the orders of Mr. Williams.

Sergeant Maynard, as well as the chairman of the Committee, Inspector Herbert Welch, and a delegate, Sergeant D'Sent Nicholas, have had charges of being disrespectful to and disobeying the lawful command of Mr. Williams preferred against them. The charges arise from circumstances surrounding the impasse between Mr. Williams and the Committee.

A spokesman for the Specials yesterday afternoon described the situation at Harman Barracks, headquarters of the I.S.C.F., as being "grave". The Specials who had reported for duty but were told to await further word, had not heard anything further, he said.

It was not immediately known if the Specials would be adhering to their original plan of the second round of three-day "sick-out" today.

## JLP WINS BY-ELECTIONS, SEAGA'S PRAISE; VOTE ASSESSED

## Poll Results

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

The Jamaica Labour Party has described its performance in Thursday's Parish Council by-election in which it retained the three divisions contested as a "decisive victory" which it said was "a clear indication that the JLP has maintained the overwhelming popular support with which it won the general election in October 1980."

The preliminary vote count in two divisions -- Warsop in Trelawny and Pembroke Hall in St. Mary-- and the final vote count in Rio Bueno in Trelawny, showed that the J.L.P. had retained all three seats. In Rio Bueno, the final vote count showed that J.L.P. candidate, George Simpson, polled 1,260 votes to win over Frederick Murray of the P.N.P. who polled 203 votes.

In Warsop, also in Trelawny, the J.L.P.'s Ralph Miller won with 906 votes from the P.N.P.'s Neville Rattray, 442 votes, and Hermine Gallimore, of the Cornwall United People's Party, 11 votes. In Pembroke Hall, Seymour Henry, of the J.L.P., polled 1,310 votes to win over the P.N.P.'s Neville Ramsay who polled 829 votes and Clive Keating, of the Christian Democratic Party, who polled 42 votes.

In its statement over the signature of the General Secretary, Senator Bruce Golding, the J.L.P. said that it had "improved its position in relation to the P.N.P. by securing a higher percentage of the votes cast than it did in the General Elections of 1980".

The J.L.P. said that its percentage of the votes cast on Thursday had grown from the 1980 figure of 61.1 to 61.2 in Pembroke Hall, from 66.5 to 67.1 in Warsop,

and from 82.9 to 86 in Rio Bueno.

The statement continued:

"The results of these by-elections are significant for a number of reasons.

"Firstly, the by-elections were held almost exactly two years after the J.L.P. Government assumed office. The success of the J.L.P. cannot therefore be attributed simply to the effects of our landslide victory in 1980 but must be seen as an endorsement of the performance of the Government in its efforts to secure economic recovery and to improve the quality of life throughout Jamaica.

"Secondly, two of the divisions in which the elections were held, Pembroke Hall and Warsop, are predominantly agricultural areas widely separated from each other. The consistency of the results in these two divisions as compared with the 1980 General Elections is a vindication of the positive efforts being made by the Government to revitalize the agricultural sector and to resolve the many complex problems inherited from the former P.N.P. Administration.

"Thirdly, the results of the elections must be seen as a further rejection of Opposition Leader, Michael Manley, who personally led the P.N.P. campaign in the by-elections and made the performance of the Government the central issue in the campaign.

"The Jamaica Labour Party has deliberately refrained from responding to the recent frantic outbursts made by Mr. Manley and other P.N.P. leaders. It is far better to let the people speak for themselves as they did so resoundingly and decisively yesterday in Trelawny and St. Mary."

## Seaga Congratulations

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

The following news release was issued from the Office of the Prime Minister yesterday on the results of the Parish Council by-elections:

Prime Minister Edward Seaga has sent telegrams of congratulations to the three winning JLP candidates in yesterday's Parish Council by-elections -- Messrs.

George Simpson (Rio Bueno), Ralph Miller (Warsop, Trelawny) and Seymour Henry (Pembroke Hall, St. Mary), and to the Members of Parliament in whose constituencies the districts fall -- Mr. Keith Russell, Parliamentary Secretary Brascoe Lee, and Hon. Talbert Forrest.

The Prime Minister wished the new Councillors "a productive term" of office.

In expressing his pleasure at the results today, the Prime Minister commented: "The fact that our candidates not only won -- but increased their percentage of the votes polled in all three divisions -- is an indication of grass-roots appreciation of the work that is being done in the Parish Council districts as well as in the constituencies. It is obviously very gratifying.

"But we all know that there is a lot to be done, and the new Councillors have many challenges ahead of them. I certainly look forward to working with them."

### Carl Stone Analysis

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Nov 82 pp 8, 14

[Article by Carl Stone: "Misinterpreting By-elections"]

[Text]

Certain aspects of politics are like recurring decimals. They repeat themselves regardless of which party is in power. Both the present JLP government and the past PNP government have used local government by-elections victories to reassure themselves and the country how much their popularity is intact and to demonstrate to critics and the sceptics that their parties have lost no mass support.

The JLP has compared the results of last Thursday's three local government by-elections with the 1980 parliamentary election vote in the three areas, and as concluded that the JLP has not lost any mass support and that the election results are a significant endorsement of JLP policies generally and farm policies in particular.

Now I can understand why a party governing under severe conditions of high unemployment and a faltering economy would to reassure itself about its popularity. I can also see the wisdom of a party with three years of its term of office yet to come and a cloud of uncertainty over economic recovery wanting to restore party confidence and morale by crowing over these by-election victories.

### Support

Nevertheless, as a political scientist and public opinion pollster I have to remind the JLP and the country about certain realities of voting behaviour which completely refute the JLP's interpretation of these by-election results.

First of all, from early in 1978 my polls indicated that the governing party at the time (the PNP) had a smaller or lower level of popular support than the opposition JLP. Yet the PNP was able to comfortably win all by-election contests over the period. At that time some notable PNP persons proceeded to compare the poll results with by-election findings and came away with the conclusion that the polls were bogus and had no basis in reality and that the by-election results were the more reliable index of the popular support for the PNP. Indeed, much PNP crowing took place after these

by-election victories, as the results were used to reassure the party and the nation that socialist policies had been endorsed in those election results.

Throughout 1978, 1979 and 1980 the PNP governed as a party with less popular support than the opposition, yet there was not one by-election held over the period which gave any indication of that fact.

Why?

There are two kinds of voters in Jamaica. The hard core partisan majority who can always be relied on to come to and vote in any election. These people are loyal party voters, and their votes are predictable. Secondly there are the floating voters with no firm or stable loyalty to any party. These are the voters who determine which party wins parliamentary elections. These voters are the ones which enables an opposition party to come from behind to win elections. These voters tend not to participate in by-election and especially local government by-elections.

The by-election in the hotly contested Pembroke Hall St. Mary division pulled out only 63% of the electorate. That was a decent turn out by the standards of local elections, but at least another 22% to 23% are likely to turn out to vote in a parliamentary election and that additional 22% or 23% are likely to be mainly floating voters.

Disaffected floating voters are only enticed to vote in election where there is a chance to change the government. Since by-elections involve no such opportunity most of these voters stay away.

The governing party always has the advantage in getting out more of its hard core partisan support to vote in by-election. After all, as the party has nothing to offer, as it will remain in opposition regardless of the election outcome.

### Unwise

Finally, citizens in local areas realise that it is unwise to vote for opposition parties in by-elections since the governing party controls the flow of benefits.

Now the JLP's comparison of by the by-election results with the 1980 parliamentary vote involves a not so subtle sleight of hand. Local elections are not high turnout elections, as are parliamentary elections. Comparing percentage shares of the vote between them is

like comparing apples and oranges. All parties in power score higher percentage shares of the vote in local elections than in parliamentary elections for the reasons given above.

The JLP comparison should have been with the 1981 local government election. If we compare the recent by-election votes with that last local election, the results are quite inconsistent with the JLP's interpretation. In the Pembroke Hall Division where both parties invested most effort, energy and campaigning muscle to prove a point, the level of JLP voting fell by eight per cent compared to the 1981 vote. In Warsop it fell by three per cent. There is no basis for comparison with Rio Bueno as that seat was uncontested by the PNP in 1981.

When polls are conducted by scientific methods we interview not only the hard core partisans but also the floating voter. The polls are therefore a more

reliable guide to the balance of political support in the country than any local government by-election.

We are sure there will be many persons comparing our poll results on party standings with the by-election results. We suggest that they avoid the errors made by the PNP in the past which assumed that by-election results refuted poll findings.

However much the JLP might be reassuring itself by its interpretation of by-election polls, it would be most absurd if the leaders of that party concluded from these election results that the by-election vote is an endorsement of JLP policies. Promoting reassuring propaganda is one thing. Believing it is quite another. But politicians will be politicians and the JLP is likely to repeat the errors of the PNP in coming away from these easy victories with false confidence as to how much support the party has across the country.

CSO: 3298/138

## SEAGA WANTS MP'S TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO CONSTITUENCIES

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 14 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said on Friday night he plans to relieve a number of MPs who hold various positions in the government of their responsibilities so as to allow them more time to serve in their constituencies.

The Prime Minister's statement was made at a dinner at Richmond Hill Inn officially launching the West Hanover Trust Fund.

Mr. Seaga said: "I believe the substance and foundation of politics, and the substance and foundation of the reason why you were elected is first of all to give service to the people who elected you."

He said that where Ministerial, Parliamentary or Parliamentary Secretary responsibilities affected such service it was incumbent on the MP to relinquish his responsibility because "your first charge is to give service to the people."

"It is not always easy to hold the dual position of MP and Parliamentary responsibilities and at the same time be able to give efficient service to the people

which is the bottom line test of anyone elected to public life" Mr. Seaga said.

Referring to the work of Dr. Horace Chang, Member of Parliament for Western Hanover, Mr. Seaga described him as a young and energetic man who was born a natural politician, and who has been giving remarkable service within his constituency and was worthy of the support of his community in his new venture of a Trust Fund.

The Prime Minister appealed to the business community to rally to the cause and support Dr. Chang who, he said, was committed to the call of the people.

Other speakers at the \$100-a-plate dinner included Dr. Kenneth Baugh, Minister of Health; Mr. Winston Spaulding, Minister of National Security; and Mr. Basil Buck, Member of Parliament for East Hanover, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mining.

Mr. Seaga told the Gleaner after the dinner that there was no intention to have a Cabinet reshuffle and that he was referring to members of government in the junior ranks.

CSO: 3298/139



## SEAGA DISCLOSES FUTURE PLANS FOR TRADE DEPARTMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Edward Seaga said in Montego Bay on Friday night that the new department to replace the Trade Administrator's Department will eventually be set up as a statutory body; but for the beginning, "in order to be able to do this, it will be set up as a corporate enterprise."

The Prime Minister was speaking at a dinner at the Richmond Hill Inn Hotel to officially launch the West Hanover Trust Fund.

Describing the department as "an abominable, disaster and a shame and disgrace to the Public Service," Mr. Seaga said "there was no way that he intended to go through 1983 with such a department."

The department, he added, was undoubtedly considered to be the worst department in the entire government service... "the Eventide Home" of the productive sector and regulatory department.

"It is absolutely no way that I as Prime Minister intend to endure them for any longer than the begin-

ning of next year. And let it be a lesson to any Public Service Department, that if they can't perform they must face liquidation."

He continued, "I do not care how many people want to belay those persons who will be dismissed. I do not care how many people want to take side in sympathy with those who are put out of jobs. If the few who hold jobs are holding up the progress of the many then let the few go, so that the many may progress."

Mr. Seaga said that he was giving due warning to all elements within the Public Service that they would not be allowed to stand in the path of progress by failing to perform.

"And I will take responsibility for any consequence, the only one I will not take is the responsibility for non-performance," the Prime Minister declared.

CSO: 3298/139

## BRIEFS

**GRANT FOR TRAINING**--The Commission of the European Communities has approved a grant of \$7.6 million to the Jamaican Government in favour of a multi-annual training programme for the years 1981 to 1984, under the LOME 11 Convention. Prior to this approval on October 28 last, a provisional amount of \$400,000 million had been granted, thus bringing the total amount allocated to the Training Programme to \$8 million, an official release said. [as published] The object of the programme is to assist the Jamaican Government in further equipping itself with the trained human resources necessary for the execution of its programme in the public sector. The programme includes a scholarship and award programme under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Service, teachers' training programme, local seminars and in-service training, as well as consultancy services to the Administrative Staff College. Under the training programme, the number of awards proposed for 1981 to 1984 amount to over \$2.5 million. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Nov 82 p 12]

**EXPORT ORDERS**--Mr. Hugh Gray, Managing Director of Neal and Massy (Jamaica) Limited, returned from New York on Thursday with orders for Jamaican goods valued at U.S. \$300,000. The business was procured when Mr. Gray met with various importers who cater to the West Indian market in New York. The orders, which were signed on Wednesday, included spices, syrups, canned foods and juices, biscuits, flavourings, ground provisions, vegetables and antiseptics, a release on the company's behalf said. In commenting on Neal and Massy's first breakthrough into the United States market, Mr. Gray said: "I am very pleased by the outcome of the visit. We have secured the first set of orders from the United States, taking this initiative in response to the Prime Minister's call for the private sector to be involved in exporting our local agricultural produce in particular. We have identified a very good market among West Indians in this area, and we aim to supply it as far as possible with our Jamaican produce." Mr. Gray, who was accompanied on his trip by Mr. Lennie Chin, of Shim's Syrups, said that the orders will be filled within the next two months and he looked forward to even larger orders when the New York market samples the products distributed by his company. Neal and Massy, which exports primarily to the CARICOM market, will be increasing their quest for sales in the region also, by mounting an exhibition of a wide range of Jamaican products this weekend in Trinidad. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Nov 82 p 1]

JAMAICAN, U.S. COUNTERFEIT--A number of counterfeit local \$20 bills and U.S. \$5 bills are in circulation in the Ocho Rios area, the police said yesterday. The local counterfeit bills bear the serial number, RU 556861. There was no immediate information on the forged U.S. bills. Linbert Pearson, 20, of Pimento Walk in St. Ann, was arrested by the police last week in the Ocho Rios area and charged with possession of some of the bad local notes, uttering counterfeit money and obtaining money by false pretences, the police said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Nov 82 p 1]

CSO: 3298/139

## BRIEFS

CHARGE OF BIASED REPORTING--The Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis has for the past few weeks been constantly in the news. Not all of this publicity has been positive, however, and we wish to make a few comments on that. THE DEMOCRAT has been reliably informed that the well-spring for much of this "bad publicity" has been the source of the almost daily reports that have been reaching the wires of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) and to a lesser extent, Radio Antilles, from this State. We have little to say on this matter other than that (1) it appears to be typical of the "bad publicity" that the St. Kitts-based CANA Correspondent is also a regular contributor to a column in the Opposition Party newspaper, THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN. (2) it is an unfortunate fact that his CANA reports rely frequently on statements, opinions and Editorials taken wholesale from the said Opposition Party newspaper, which is not an independent newspaper at all. (3) the CANA Correspondent has not up to now referred even once to the views expressed in this newspaper, so that his reports are clearly unbalanced, and in our opinion biased and unfair. [as published] The fact remains that, whatever "sensational" and BIASED stories are being cooked up for CANA and Antilles, an enormous amount of positive, progressive and enlightened activity is being pushed forward at this time in St. Kitts-Nevis. [as published]

[Excerpt] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 25 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 3298/140

## BRIEFS

CDB AID PACKAGE--The Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] and the government of St. Lucia have reached agreement on a US\$45 million [EC\$122 Million] aid package. Agreement on the package was reached last week by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning, Development and Foreign Affairs, Mr John Compton and a top level CDB team which visited the state last week. According to government news sources the money is to be used for a number of development projects including agricultural, industrial, tourism, infra-structural, housing water-development projects and a major sewage disposal project. Other areas of utilisation of the funds will include agro-processing and electricity development. While in St. Lucia the CDB team, headed by Mr Barnard Yankee, Deputy Director of Agriculture of the CDB, met with several government Ministers and officials and representatives of the private sector. The CDB team also conducted a survey of on going CDB-financed projects and identified a number of new projects to be financed by the CDB over the period 1983 to 1987. [By Steve Charles] [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 13 Oct 82 p 1]

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